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# ONE NATION ONE JOY

**AFTER 13 YEARS, A WORLD COUP:** 17 yrs after winning the 1st T20 World Cup, 13 yrs after winning their 2nd ODI WC, and after 2 heartbreaking losses in the World Test Championship and ODI WC finals in 2023, India finally ended their title drought, edging out S Africa by 7 runs in a thriller that went down to the last over. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the 2 highest rungetters in T20Is, ended their int'l T20 careers. A look at the game, in all its swinging glory:

► India score 15 off the 1st over as Kohli races to 176/7, the highest total in a T20 WC final  
► Kohli goes into a shell as India rebuild, eventually gets to 50 off 48 balls – his slowest T20 half-ton ever. Doesn't hit a boundary from the 4th over to the 18th  
► Promoted to No. 5, Axar Patel responds with a useful 47 off 31 balls but is brilliantly run out by SA keeper Quinton de Kock  
► Shivam Dube contributes 27 off 16 balls even as Kohli accelerates at the death before falling for a 59-ball 76 – 1 more than his aggregate of 75 runs in 7 matches before the final  
► India score 42 runs in the last 3 overs to finish

## THIS WORLD IS ENOUGH

66 It's the stuff of dreams. One day you feel like you can't get a run and then this happens. God is great...It was my last T20 match for India...Time for the next generation to take the game forward – Kohli



## Fitting Farewell For Coach Dravid

Rahul Dravid, who never won a World Cup in a distinguished career as a player, finally bagged a title in his last outing as Team India coach. He leaves with a superb track record:

	Won	Lost	Tied	Draw/ NR	Success
Tests	24	14	7	0	58.3%
ODIs	53	36	14	0	72.0%
T20Is	71	52	16	2#	75.7%

# India won both tied matches in super overs

66 CHAMPIONS! Our team brings the T20 World Cup home in STYLE! We are proud of the Indian Cricket Team. This match was HISTORIC

—PM Narendra Modi

## SKY Is Not The Limit

Catches win matches, goes the maxim. This one won the World Cup. With SA needing 16 in 6 balls, Miller hit Hardik for what looked like a sure sixer till Suryakumar Yadav (SKY) ran full tilt, grabbed the ball, lobbed it into the air as he went over the ropes, and then stepped back to complete a catch that became an instant legend. A couple of inches literally made all the difference for India and SA

FULL COVERAGE | P 23 & 25

5 soldiers in tank swept away in Ladakh floods

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five Army soldiers drowned when their tank got stuck after a flash flood in Shyok river in the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) region of eastern Ladakh, which is near the Line of Actual Control with China, late on Friday night.

The Russian-origin T-72 main-battle tank, which had a crew of one junior commissioned officer (JCO) and four jawans, was 'de-inducting' from a military exercise when the mishap occurred while fording the river near Saser Brangsa due to "a sudden increase in the water level" around midnight. "Rescue teams, including combat engineers in boats, rushed to the location. But the soldiers could not be saved due to the



A file photo of Indian tanks in Pangong Tso region of Ladakh

strong current in the river. All bodies were later recovered," an officer said. The 52 Armoured Regiment soldiers who died were identified as MRK Reddy (JCO), Subhan Khan, Bhupendra Negi, Ekeidaung Tei-bam & Sadarbonia Nagaraju.

► Drill at night, P 18

**NEET: CBI arrests scribe in Jharkhand, Bihar 'link'**

Abhijit Sen & Kalyan Das | TNN

coordinator for National Testing Agency, Haque and vice-principal Imtiaz Alam are in CBI net. Jamaludin, Haque and Alam were taken to Patna, where they were sent to CBI cu-

► New NEET-PG schedule in 1-2 days: Pradhan, P 18  
► Push for pen-paper mode under scanner, P 18

study for 5 days, sources said.

Jamaludin, a journalist-cum-ad executive with a local paper allegedly tried to help Haque and Alam, they said.

► Leak suspect held, P 18



Late Vaidyraj Krushnashastri Puranik (1839-1905)



Late Vaidyraj Vishnushastri Puranik (1864-1914)



Late Vaidyraj Rambhau Puranik (1883-1933)



Late Vaidyraj Gangadhar Puranik (1907-1980)



Late Vaidyraj Mahadev Puranik (1912-1987)



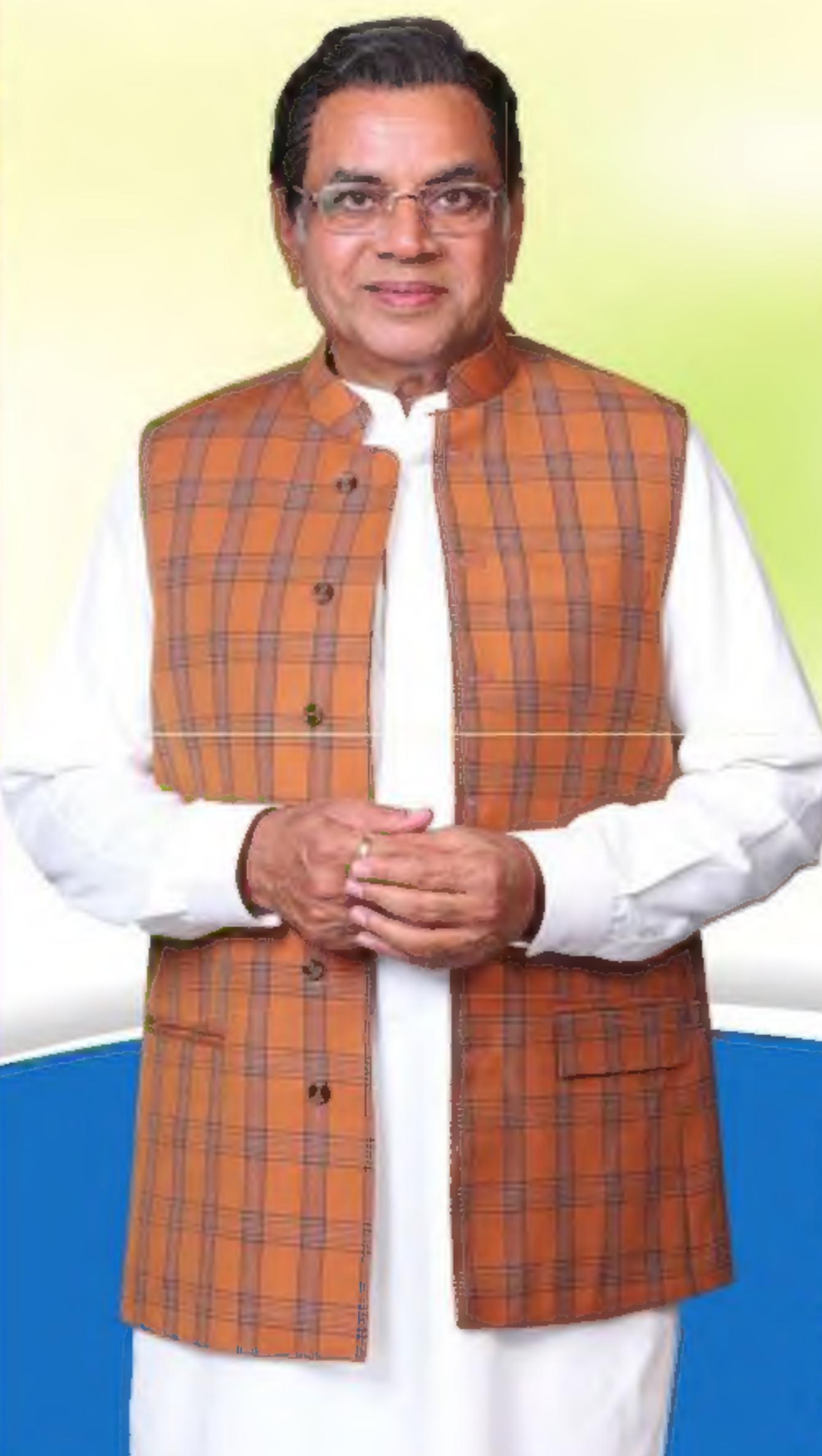
Late Anand Puranik (1937-2023)



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# New Drainage System For Capital Need Of The Hour

Shah Holds Meet On Waterlogging, Plan May Take 4 Years

Atul Mathur &  
Siddhanta Mishra | TNN

New Delhi: Heavy downpour and subsequent waterlogging on Friday has brought focus back on the need to overhaul the city's drainage system. Union home minister Amit Shah held a meeting with senior Delhi officials on Saturday to discuss the issue of waterlogging and find a solution to the nagging problem that returns to haunt the people of the city every time it rains heavily.

While Shah directed the officials to maintain inter-departmental coordination, complete desilting of drains at the earliest and take temporary measures to solve local problems, officials maintained that the city will have to deal with waterlogging unless the city gets a new drainage system. They, however, agreed that it will take at least 4 years to put in place the new drainage set up that suits the requirement of the ever-growing population in both urban areas as well as the unplanned colonies of Delhi.

Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar said the city has been divided in three parts - Najafgarh basin, Barapullah basin and Trans-Yamuna basin - and consultants have already been appointed to prepare

the drainage plan for each of them. "We are likely to get the report by March next year and once approved, it will take at least three years for modify the city's drainage system as per the new plan," Kumar said.

There are multiple agencies in Delhi that manage the city's big and small drains while the high court has called for a single agency to look after them. With the current design of the drainage system, which was put in place almost 50 years ago in 1976, Delhi can easily drain only 50mm of rain in a day. However, the city came to its knees whenever it witnessed massive intense rains. On Friday, Delhi saw 228mm of rainfall



A DAY AFTER THE RAIN: Sludge-filled Aurobindo Marg

and almost the entire city got submerged. In 2023, 153mm of rain was recorded on July 9 and 107.3mm on July 10, which led to widespread waterlogging across the city resulting in long traffic jams.

It was in 2009 that the then LG Tejendra Khanna had directed the civic bodies to prepare a master plan for the watershed and drainage system. The project was given to IIT-Delhi in 2012. Almost five years since the report was submitted in 2018, a modern drainage master plan continues to evade the capital.

Retired IAS officer Ramesh Negi, who worked in MCD, Delhi Jal Board and Delhi govt's urban development

department said the city's faulty drainage system was the making of everyone. "More than half of the city is unplanned. Go to the unauthorised colonies and villages and you will find the drains choked with garbage and construction waste. In posh localities such as Civil Lines, which was flooded after the Yamuna spilled over, Panchsheel, Hauz Khas and all others, drains have been covered to park vehicles," Negi said. "I don't blame the govt agencies. I blame the citizens for this problem," he added.

Former additional director general in central public works department, MCT Pareva, who served in the irrigation and flood control department of Delhi govt twice as chief engineer, said the first spell of rain always leads to waterlogging. "Most drains are covered and difficult to clean. Also, our engineers are not trained to deal with the situation when it rains so much. The disaster management teams should conduct a drill before the monsoon to check if the system is fine," Pareva said.

While he also advocated for a new drainage master plan for Delhi, Pareva said if the 1976 plan is properly implemented, the problem of waterlogging won't occur.

## Bodies of 3 labourers retrieved in Vasant Vihar

Devanshi.Mehta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After a 24-hour-long operation, teams from Delhi Fire Service (DFS) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) retrieved the bodies of three labourers who fell into a pit for basement at an under-construction building in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar on Friday.

A senior DFS officer said two bodies were recovered around 9 am on Saturday, and the third one was retrieved 20 minutes later. The pit had been dug up to construct the basement of a building in B block of Vasant Vihar.

The bodies of Santosh Pal (19), Santosh Ram (19), and Daya Ram (45), all natives of Bihar, have been recovered, a police officer said.

Santosh, a resident of Araria village

who studied up till class 10, had come to Delhi just a month before the accident to earn a living and send money back home, said Dilkhush, his friend. "At the construction site, he was hired to cut iron bars as a daily wage labourer. He wanted to give a good life to his family, but sadly he died," he added.

The firefighters said that the labourers had set up 3-4 temporary shelters (Jhuggis) right on the edge of the pit for basement was dug up. Due to heavy rain, trees, as well as these shelters, fell inside the pit due to the mud underneath sliding because of the rain.

Other labourers present on the site informed TOI that though three bodies have been recovered, they were not the only ones who fell into the pit. A middle-aged man and a woman had also fallen

into the pit, but they grabbed the branch of a tree that fell inside and managed to survive. However, another shelter right above the basement, in which the security guard was living, didn't fall.

The officer said that the major challenge in this rescue operation was to pump out all the water from the dug-up basement to retrieve the bodies. Since the water had filled up to 12 feet, more than 6-8 fire units were used by DFS to pump out the water, and subsequently, MCD also pumped out water. With the help of NDRF, the bodies could be retrieved, he added.

Another challenge was removing the semi-solid mud slush formed due to the debris of the material used by the labourers to build their makeshift shelters, the officer added.



Anindya Chattopadhyay  
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## FILTHY WORK DAMAGING & DAMNING!



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



Delhi-Meerut e-way near Vinod Nagar in east Delhi

## 4 boys drown in city, Govt seeks permanent solution to waterlogging

►Continued from P1

In the incident at the Samaypur Badli underpass, bodies of the two boys were fished out at 4:15 pm on Saturday after the police responded to a call at 2:25 pm. "Upon reaching the spot, we found that the underpass near the metro had approximately 2-3 feet of water," the officer said.

One of the deceased was identified as a resident of Sitaraspur while the other remains unidentified. Proceedings under Section 174 of CrPC have been initiated.

In other incidents, two boys had drowned in a ditch in northeast Delhi's New Jamnagar while a 40-year-old man was electrocuted in Prem Nagar, north-west Delhi, on Friday.

Meanwhile, bodies of three labourers were finally recovered from a pit in Vasant Vihar on Saturday morning, more than 24 hours after they got buried in mud because of a mishap at a construction site.

On Friday, a canopy at the forecourt of Terminal 1 at IGI Airport had collapsed, leaving a cabbie dead and eight injured.

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi urban development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Saturday visited several rain-affected areas in East Kidwai Nagar and Golf Links and coordinated with various departments to address the issue of waterlogging.

Delhi govt, in a statement, said that despite these areas falling under New Delhi Municipal Council, Bharadwaj called for a permanent solution to fix the waterlogging problem. He also discussed the overflow in Barapullah drain with the officials of various central govt departments.

Bharadwaj received information from Golf Links that water had entered people's homes due to heavy rain and waterlogging. A team was sent from the chief minister's office to the spot and the waterlogging was cleared by calling the NDMC staff. Water was removed by dam," said the statement.

It added that Bharadwaj visited Golf Links and took stock of the situation and found that the problem had been temporarily resolved. "To find a permanent solution, the minister had an extensive discussion with the officers of all departments concerned. He instructed the departments to provide an effective solution so that the problem does not recur," said the govt, adding that Bharadwaj also visited Barapullah drain and discussed cleaning of drain with the staff present there.

Officials said complaints of waterlogging were reported from East Kidwai Nagar also where vehicles were submerged in water in the parking lot and lifts had to be closed.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

## New Criminal Laws ensure Children's Safety

Victims below the age of 18 years are classified as children

There is now a provision of 14 years of imprisonment for buying and selling of minors

Engaging children for crime or involving them in criminal acts will now be a punishable offence

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Last Date of Registration & Fee Submission: 16.07.2024

Tentative online Common Entrance Test : 27.07.24 & 28.07.2024

\* May please refer to the admission portal for any update in the schedule

\*\* Registration Fee of Rs. 500/- (Non refundable) is payable at time of online registration

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and Chand, all residents of Trilokpuri and Jal Vihar, identified as most labourers are by just their first names, have been tasked to clear the stormwater drain by their contractor and will continue their assignment for three months. Sumit proudly proclaimed, "I am reputed for sewage clearing. It's become my calling card."

Deshraj toiled beneath the fractured pavement, stooping uncomfortably in the 2 ft tall drain, scooping out the muck and passing them to his colleagues outside. Vinod expressed his apprehensions, saying, "We can't work in a bent posture in the drain for extended periods. Machine sey pani nikalna chahiye, hum to kator se pani nikalte hain." For their exertions from 9am to 6pm, the six men receive a daily remuneration of Rs 500 from their contractor, whom Rohit mentioned was hired by the Public Works Department.

Nihal Singh, a resident of West Vinod Nagar, was aghast to see the destruction required for the crucial task of preventing flooding of the drains. "It's truly agonising to witness the ravaged pavements where we frequently come for evening strolls," he sighed.

Following the heaviest downpour in June in 88 years on Friday, the orange-clad men were in a rush on Saturday to finish desilting that particular stretch. And although manual scavenging has been banned in India, the practice continues. Urban local bodies and private contractors employ people to manually clear clogged sewers and drains of mud, waste and plastic bags.

# LG asks agencies to carry out desilting on war footing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A day after LG VK Saxena issued instructions to officials to deal with flooding that occurred due to heavy rainfall and backflow from choked drains, he inspected some of the most severely affected drains and areas on Saturday. He directed the agencies concerned to carry out the desilting on a war footing.

LG also asked officials to put in place a comprehensive plan comprising long-term measures to deal with the problems of waterlogging rather than dealing with the issue in a "crisis management mode".

According to Raj Niwas officials, Saxena directed the agencies to make the water drainage system foolproof to avert the recurrence of

such incidents in future. Officials said LG expressed displeasure that none of the major drains were desilted and cleaned in the run-up to the monsoon preparations and this led to heavy waterlogging in several parts of the city. He also noticed encroachment along the drains and asked authorities to remove them immediately. Some of the drains that LG visited included Taimur Nagar, Barapullah drain, ITPO, Tilak Bridge, Kushal Nullah, Golf Links and Bharti Nagar.

Saxena was accompanied by chief secretary Naresh Kumar, who also holds the charge of NDMC chairman, MCD commissioner Ashwani Kumar, PWD principal secretary A Anbarasu and other senior officials. Union minister and East Delhi



LG said a comprehensive plan be drafted

MP Harsh Malhotra and New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj also accompanied LG during the visit in their respective areas.

Raj Niwas officials said LG first inspected the Taimur Nagar drain and found it heavily by a huge quan-

ty of silt and garbage deposit that prevented the water from flowing down. He later went to ITPO and Tilak Bridge drains, both owned and maintained by PWD, where he found similar conditions. Clogged drains due to garbage and debris resulted in backflow of water and flooded the entire stretch around ITPO, the LG office said.

Saxena also visited Kushak Nullah opposite Dyal Singh College, Golf Links drain and Bharti Nagar where locals complained of choked drains and sewer lines. "LG directed NDMC officials to immediately get desilting of drains done and deploy additional pumps as and when required to clear waterlogging in case of heavy rain," said an official. "He also directed of-

ficials to deploy additional pumps at the chronic waterlogging sites to prevent waterlogging and flooding. LG warned that any negligence will be viewed seriously and action will be taken against the erring officials," the official added.

Raj Niwas, in a press statement, said LG also expressed displeasure over the garbage dumped in all drains and issued instructions for its removal within four days and submission of photographic and video evidence.

"Since day one of assuming office, LG has accorded topmost priority to monsoon preparedness to ensure people are not inconvenienced due to waterlogging, flooding, overflowing drains and falling of trees," Raj Niwas added.

# Tunnel Vision: Drainage Was Overlooked

Transit Corridor Got Filled With Rainwater After Silt In Drain 12A Blocked Flow On Friday

Siddhanta Mishra  
@timesgroup.com

## TOO MANY AGENCIES AT WORK



area still experienced waterlogging. PWD had worked on desilting and redesigning of the stormwater drain on

Mathura Road recently. A five-member PWD committee formed in March submitted a report in April about the

area's problems, but govt agencies didn't take any steps to prevent or manage the waterlogging in and aro-

### PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN REPORT

- Same executing agency should have built the tunnel and the Bharat Mandapam campus
- No proper water proofing treatment at points of their integration
- Leakages from fountains/drains above the main tunnel
- Flooding from basement side into tunnel branches
- Inadequate water



und the tunnel before the rainy season began.

The expert report determined that one of the reasons for the waterlogging was the involvement of two different agencies working on different components of the Pragati Maidan complex redevelopment. The tunnel network, connected with Bharat Mandapam managed by ITPO, experiences significant water infiltration from the underground parking ramps and branch tunnels after every spell of rain leading to frequent closure of the tunnel. PWD, responsible for managing the transit network, attributes the problem to the incomplete drainage system within the Bharat Mandapam campus.

Among the suggestion made by the expert committee in its report, dumping of water at Pragati Maidan have shown signs of severe seepage during the recent rains and the underpasses of the transit network have been temporarily closed for repairs. The tunnel was again closed for traffic on Friday as PWD worked to clear out the accumulated water.

The high-level report also highlighted the need for a new drain around the tunnel, in addition to the two existing drains.

A PWD official maintained, "While the tunnel project progressed ahead, the redevelopment of the campus was slow and ITPO misma-

naged proper drainage construction work inside it. There is a drain but it is in parts, so whenever there is rain or leakage of water it seeps through walls, ramps inside the main tunnel. Despite numerous communications sent to ITPO urging them to address the issue on priority, no action has been taken."

The walls of the parking lot at Pragati Maidan have shown signs of severe seepage during the recent rains and the underpasses of the transit network have been temporarily closed for repairs. The tunnel was again closed for traffic on Friday as PWD worked to clear out the accumulated water.

An ITPO official responded to a query with: "ITPO is managing its campus in an utmost professional manner. There is no source of water accumulation on the part of ITPO. The fault in this case does not lie with ITPO. Rather we are at the receiving end."

HBR Chowk along with his uncle when he was attacked.

"At the market, Anuj was sitting in his car and drinking juice while my brother was buying fruits at a nearby stall. Two youths crashed their bike into Anuj's car from behind. When he came out, they started to fire at him. My son tried to flee, but the assailants caught up with him and

**Anuj Dayama was having juice in his car at Ullawas market when two assailants crashed into the vehicle and shot him**

pumped six bullets into him. He was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to injuries during treatment," Singh said in his complaint.

An FIR was lodged against the unknown attackers under sections 302 (murder), 34 (common intent) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code. A senior police officer said that they were scanning CCTV footage to identify the attackers. The cops are also tracing Anuj's criminal antecedents, cops said.

"We have come across three FIRs against Anuj as well. We are analysing them to find out if the attack on him was the result of some old enmity," an officer said.

## Bouncer shot six times at market by two on a bike, dies

Ankita.Anand@timesgroup.com

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# An anti-caste library that seeks to bridge gaps battles rain

Komal.Sharma  
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**New Delhi:** The torrential downpour on Friday hit an event called 'Pride' organised by the Community Library Project in Khariki Extension, Malviya Nagar. The rain damaged the space and the books, the anti-caste library's crown jewels. The rainwater resulted in a claimed loss of Rs 10 lakh for the unique library.

"We were shocked to see the rainwater destroying the books and the furniture," exclaimed Mausam, 24, deputy director of the library. "Luckily, we were closed on Fridays so no members came and we had some hours to clean the space. We were planning a 'Pride' workshop on Saturday, but the rain damage meant we had to cancel it," said a regretful Mausam.

With the rains having damaged some books, members of the initiative are seeking donations in the form of books and cash to return to normalcy



With the rain having damaged books, members of the initiative are seeking donations in the form of books and cash to return to normalcy



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee

nations in the form of books and cash to help them return to normalcy. Those who are willing to help can access the website of the Community Library Project- Khariki Extension.

The library, with its motto of 'Hum Nahi Toh Kau Ab Nahi Toh Ka', reflects the fervour of the youth who run the programme, driven by a strong anti-caste ethos. It provides free access to over 10,000 books and a variety of educational programmes and creates a vital bridge between the community library and the populace.

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Passengers claimed that they received messages about the delay. Ayushman, who had booked a flight from Kolkata to New Delhi, said, "My flight on Saturday was initially scheduled to arrive at T-1, but I was informed that it will now land at T-2."

The service at Delhi airport was hit after the canopy at the forecast of Terminal-1 at Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed around 5 am on Friday, killing one and injuring eight people. Soon after the incident, the departure at T-1 was suspended. While arrivals continued till 10.30 am, it was then shifted to other terminals.

The canopy, spanning from departure gates 1 to 2, collapsed due to heavy rain. Due to this incident, the new T-1 building, which was expected to become operational by next month, may be affected as they both have a common ramp, said airport officials.

Though the newly constructed and expanded T-1 was inaugurated in March, it is yet to become operational. The expanded T-1 can serve 40 million passengers per annum, more than double its previous capacity. The overall area of the expanded T-1 has been tripled from earlier 55,740 sqm to 206,950 sqm.

## 3 kids who died in Noida wall collapse had come on vacation

**Noida:** A five-year-old boy injured in the wall collapse in Greater Noida's Surajpur on Friday night is on ventilator support. Four other injured kids are stable, but under observation.

Three children — the youngest of them just 2 years old — died and five were injured after the wall collapsed on them around 7.45pm in Khodha Kalan village. It was not immediately clear if the wall came crashing down because of rain or if substandard material was used to build it. The wall had been built around a plot where a local resident — Saghir — was constructing a house.

Police said all eight kids who were buried under the rubble were Saghir's grandsons and had come to his house for the summer vacation. The three kids who died were Ahad (4), Alifza (2) and Adil (8). The injured are identified as Ayesha (16) and Sameer (15).

Hussain (5), Sohna (12) and Wasil (11), Ayesha and Sameer are Saghir's children. Hussain, with critical injuries to the head, is on life support.

Saghir told TOI his son, daughter, and nephew had come to his house along with their families for the summer vacation around 10 days ago. TNN

## Take steps to utilise rainwater, DMRC told

**New Delhi:** National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked DMRC to complete the work connecting viaduct spans to the central median with outlet pipes to facilitate recharging of groundwater as per the timeline of Aug 31.

TOI had earlier reported in Feb this year that DMRC has identified 951 viaduct spans where outlet water pipes will be connected to the central median and into the ground to facilitate recharging of groundwater. DMRC informed NGT said the budget for the exercise would be Rs 89.5 lakh and it is expected to be completed by Aug 31.

"We pointed out to DMRC that work of taken down take pipe along with storage depth is comprehensive and integrated.

therefore, nothing should be left to any other authority and entire work should be undertaken and discharged by DMRC itself," said NGT, adding, "We permit DMRC to proceed accordingly, and complete work as per above timeline."

NGT observed that the system of rainwater harvesting pits for utilization of rainwater along metro lines across the country needs to be undertaken in the same manner by all concerned agencies as there is lot of depletion of groundwater as well as surface water particularly whom water is in scarcity. TNN

## Chaos on at IGI: 36 flights cancelled, 40 get delayed

Priyangi.Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Flights were impacted for the second day at Delhi Airport after the operations at Terminal-1 were suspended indefinitely on Friday. Over 36 flights were cancelled on Saturday and over 40 were delayed.

IndiGo cancelled 23 flights and SpiceJet two at T-1 on Saturday till 6.30 pm. Six IndiGo flights were cancelled at T-2 and one each of IndiGo and Alliance airlines at T-3 till Saturday evening.

After the operations at Terminal-1 were suspended, all departures and arrivals of IndiGo were shifted to both T-2 and T-3, while operations of SpiceJet were moved to T-2. Only domestic flights of IndiGo and SpiceJet operate from T-1, averaging 200 flights a day including arrivals and departures.

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Komal.Sharma  
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**New Delhi:** The torrential downpour on Friday hit an event called 'Pride' organised by the Community Library Project in Khariki Extension, Malviya Nagar. The rain damaged the space and the books, the anti-caste library's crown jewels. The rainwater resulted in a claimed loss of Rs 10 lakh for the unique library.

"We were shocked to see the rainwater destroying the books and the furniture," exclaimed Mausam, 24, deputy director of the library. "Luckily, we were closed on Fridays so no members came and we had some hours to clean the space. We were planning a 'Pride' workshop on Saturday, but the rain damage meant we had to cancel it," said a regretful Mausam.

With the rains having damaged some books, members of the initiative are seeking donations in the form of books and cash to return to normalcy



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Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee

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TOI POSITIVE

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# Heavy Rain Likely In City, Air Quality Dips

IMD Expects Intense Activity For Four Days

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com



fall logged in June since 1901.

IMD has predicted intense rain activity over the next four days. "Moderate to heavy rain or thunderstorm is likely on Sunday. The showers are likely to be accompanied by gusty winds at the speed of 30-40 kmph. However, heavy rain is expected on both Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday may see moderate to heavy showers," said a Met official. The official added that moderate rain or thunderstorms are expected on July 4 and 5.

The maximum temperature is likely to stay around 34 degrees Celsius on Sunday, but it may dip to 30 degrees Celsius on Monday and further to 29 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and Wednesday. However, the minimum temperature was recorded in June 2012 at 30.6 degrees Celsius.

There were nine heatwave days this June, the highest number recorded in the month in at least 14 years, according to India Meteorological Department's data from 2011 to 2024. Some parts of Delhi, including Pitampura, Jafarpur, Nafajgarh and Narela, recorded a higher number of heatwave days.

From June 1 to June 22, the maximum temperature remained above 40 degrees Celsius for consecutive days. However, the streak of the maximum temperature surpassing 40 degrees Celsius continued from May 14 to June 22, with Delhites experiencing scorching heat. Rain accompanied by cold breezes brought down

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhites witnessed a unique June as they reeled under the intense daytime heat and warm nights with a dry spell for most part of the month. However, belying expectations, the city saw intense rainfall by the month-end. With a mean maximum temperature of 41.9 degrees Celsius, it was the hottest June in at least 14 years, at par with June 2012 when the mean maximum temperature was also 41.9 degrees Celsius.

Apart from daytime temperatures, the nights were warmer as the mean minimum temperature was 29.8 degrees Celsius this June. It was the highest minimum temperature in the past 12 years. Before this, the higher average minimum temperature was recorded in June 2012 at 30.6 degrees Celsius.

Rain had also cleaned Delhi's air quality as the city saw the lowest air quality index (AQI) at 64 on Friday and 79 on Thursday in the satisfactory category after Sept 2023. However, the air quality deteriorated to "moderate" on Saturday 5.30 pm. It is also the third highest monthly rainfall with an AQI of 118.

## MEAN MAXIMUM HIGHEST IN 14 YEARS

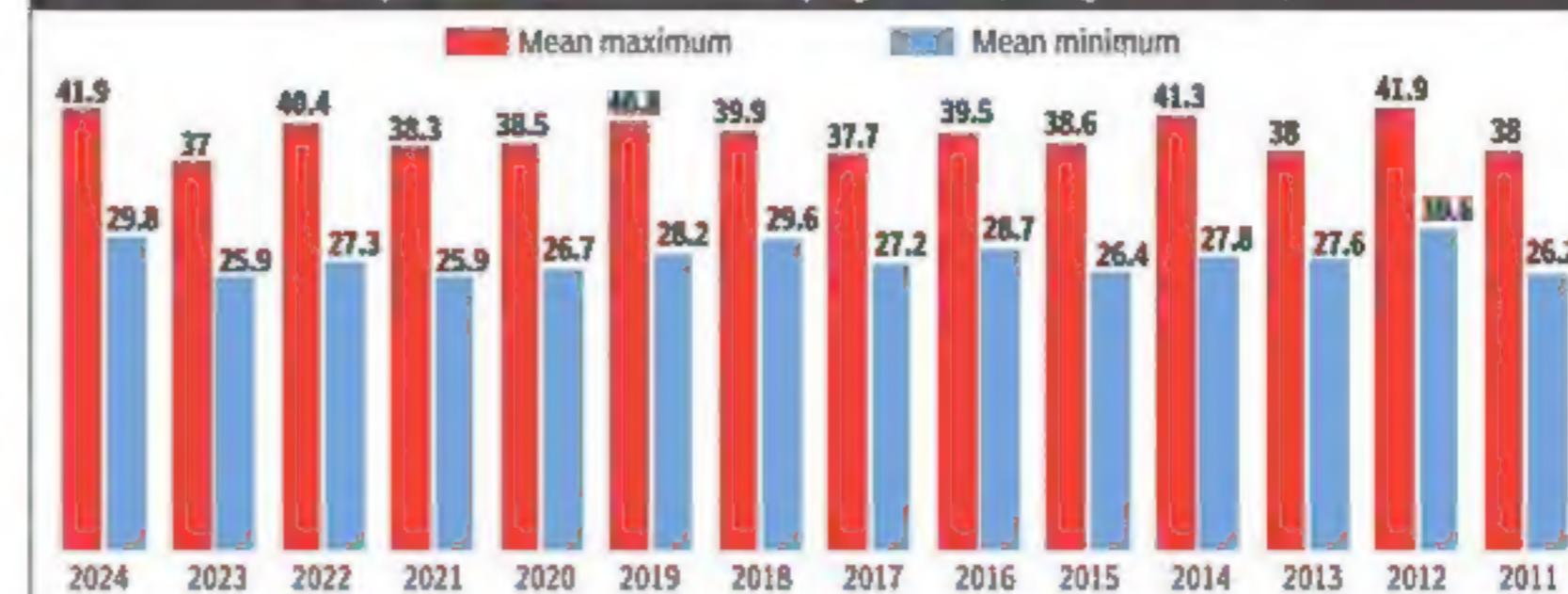


Vikas Marg on Friday

### EXTREME YEAR

- This June, mean maximum temperature was the highest in at least 14 years at 41.9°C
- June 2012 also recorded the same mean maximum temperature
- At 29.8°C, mean minimum temperature was the highest in 12 years
- At 24.4mm, June 2024 saw the third highest rainfall since 1901

Temperature recorded at Safdarjung in June (in degrees Celsius)



corded in the first 20 days of the month, and the city saw a prolonged dry spell. It led to an intense heatwave condition," said a Met official. "Even the minimum temperature on some days stayed 4.5 degrees higher than normal, causing warmer nights. Since the difference between maximum and minimum temperatures was in the range of 10-12 degrees on some days, the outdoor temperature of both days and nights were uncomfortable."

The city was staring at a rain deficit till June 27 because Safdarjung, which is the city's base weather station, had logged just 6.4mm of rainfall. However, the arrival of the monsoon winds in Delhi on Friday brought extremely heavy rainfall of 228.1mm in just a single day, the most in a day since June 1936.

June 2024 has now logged 243.4mm of precipitation till 5.30pm on Saturday, making it an excess rainfall of 253% for the month. It is also the third highest monthly rainfall logged in June since 1901.

## AAP, Congress in war of words over desilting

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

manded that responsibility should be fixed on that.

New Delhi: A war of words broke out between Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and Congress' state unit chief Devender Yadav on Saturday after the latter alleged corruption in desilting of drains and demanded a probe into it.

In a post on X, Yadav said Congress had formed an alliance with Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi for Lok Sabha elections and not to save Kejriwal on the issue of corruption.

Talking to reporters in a press conference on Friday, Yadav had alleged that massive waterlogging that brought Delhi on its knees and led to huge traffic jams was caused because of corruption in the desilting of drains and de-

manded that responsibility should be fixed on that.

When a television reporter sought Bharadwaj's reaction on Saturday, he said the two parties were part of INDIA bloc at the national level and were fighting together on larger issues such as saving the Constitution and democracy.

Reacting to it, Yadav posted on X, "Congress has formed an alliance to save democracy and the Constitution. We have not formed any alliance to save corruption. The main reason for waterlogging (in Delhi) is corruption. After the press conference by Congress on waterlogging, the statement of minister @Saurabh\_MLAgk ji is understandable."

When asked, Bharadwaj refused to comment on it.

## HORROR ON OUTING

**Location**  
Shakarpur

**Time** | 11.30pm on Friday

**What happened**

- An 11-year-old girl and her 3-year-old brother were kidnapped
- Their parents briefly left them in a car near a sweet shop
- Kidnapper stole the car with the children inside
- When the parents came out of the shop and did not find the car, the father made a phone call to his daughter
- Kidnapper answered the call, demanded ₹50 lakh for their safe return

**How the kids were rescued**

- Police teams from two districts and Railway Protection Force carried out a rescue operation
- After a three-hour, high-speed chase involving around 20 police vehicles, the kidnapper abandoned the car in Samaypur Badli with the children unharmed
- The father is a businessman and the family lives in Gurgaon
- They came on an outing to enjoy Delhi's street food

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

## Siblings kidnapped with car as parents go to buy sweets, rescued after 3 hours

New Delhi: A nightmare unfolded for a businessman who had come to Delhi with his family from Gurgaon to enjoy some street food. His 11-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son were kidnapped in Shakarpur on Friday. The parents had left them in their vehicle near a sweet shop when the abductor drove the car away and later demanded a hefty ransom of ₹50 lakh for their safe return. Police were, however, turned on the kidnapper and rescued the children from Samaypur Badli within three hours even if the suspects managed to escape.

Police received information about the kidnapping at 11.40 pm. A team rushed to the scene and met the parents at Heera Sweets on Vikas Marg. A police officer disclosed, "The family was returning to Gurgaon after enjoying street food when

the children requested sweets. The parents were gone only for six or seven minutes. When they came out of the shop they found the car missing. The father received a phone call soon after in which the kidnapper demanded a ransom of ₹50 lakh for the release of the two children."

The child's father told the media later that the kidnapper insisted on the payment of ransom at any cost. "My daughter was in a panic and told us on the phone not to call the cops," the father said. He stayed on the phone continuously with the kidnapper.

Sagar Singh Kalsi, joint commissioner of police, immediately formed teams under the leadership of inspector Sanjay Gupta. One team accompanied the mother, another the father, while two other teams started pursuing the family car based on technical surveillance. The accused remained in contact with the

father throughout.

After a three-hour, high-speed chase involving around 20 police vehicles covering over 80km, the kidnapper abandoned the car in Samaypur Badli with the children unharmed. Although the suspect managed to escape, the children were safely recovered and reunited with their parents.

"A few valuables, including jewellery and mobile phones, were also found intact in the car because the kidnapper had no time to take anything while being chased by the cops from different directions," Kalsi said, adding that raids were under way to track and apprehend the culprit.

When asked if this was a targeted kidnapping, an officer said that so far it appeared to have been impetuous. Upon finding the car running, the kidnapper had taken the opportunity to drive off with the kids.

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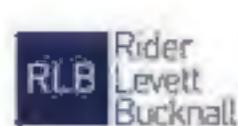
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SCAN TO APPLY

### TOP RECRUITERS



## AIIMS centre OTs still not working

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The operation theatres in the vital trauma centre at AIIMS remained non-functional for over 24 hours following heavy rainfall in the city on Friday. However, trauma surgeries are not being postponed and are being conducted at the burn and plastic surgery centre, said officials.

The downpour had disrupted medical services at AIIMS to a great extent, causing inconvenience to patients, particularly those who had their surgeries scheduled.

As per authorities, the neurosurgery unit's operating ro-

oms at the cardiothoracic and neuroscience centre were back in service from Friday evening. The RP Centre's surgical theatre also resumed operations at midday on Friday.

The trauma centre conducted a trial run in the evening on Saturday, but the authorities deemed it inappropriate to commence operations in the OT at that time.

Prof Rima Dada, who leads the media cell at AIIMS, told TOI that the trauma centre was conducting frequent moisture checks. However, surgeries are no longer being postponed. The trauma centre authorities are putting in

their best efforts to guarantee the safe and swift reopening of the operation theatre, AIIMS officials said.

The water in the third basement level of the parking had not receded even after 24 hours.

Despite the heavy rain, the hospital's staff performed 347 surgeries and admitted 1,028 patients on Friday. The number of admissions at the trauma centre was lower compared to previous days.

AIIMS authorities claimed that they managed to maintain normal operations at the hospital even though many of the faculty members were on vacation.

# After 6-Year Wait, 6-Year-Old Undergoes Surgery At AIIMS

Dad Says Docs Have Informed Hole In Heart Closed, Issue In Veins Fixed

Anuja.Jaiswal  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After waiting for almost his entire life of 6 years, Aayansh Kumar, a young ailing boy from Bihar, was finally operated upon for his heart disorder at AIIMS on Saturday. The little boy was detected with his cardiac ailment when he was 3 months old in 2018 but was not operated on, despite being given several dates, until TOI highlighted his and his family's plight earlier this month.

According to doctors, there was a hole in the child's heart, and he was also suffering from 'Tetralogy of Fallot', a congenital heart defect. This condition involves four related heart defects that change the way blood flows to the lungs and through the heart.

On June 19, National Hu-

man Rights Commission had taken suo motu cognisance of the TOI report on the boy.

The surgery was performed by Dr A K Bisoi.

On Friday, the boy underwent a CT angiography in the emergency department. This procedure was deemed necessary by the attending physician to obtain a more precise diagnosis, following an initial assessment that required further clarification, said doctors.

The boy's father, Ankit Kumar, a 32-year-old medical store helper, told TOI that his son was taken to the operating theatre at approximately 8.45am, and he was informed about the successful completion of the procedure around 3pm. The child has been shifted to the ICU for monitoring.

"The doctors informed me that the hole in the heart has been closed and the issue related to the veins has also

## TOI IMPACT

3-month-old boy is now 6, still waits for surgery at AIIMS

Photo: TOI  
The boy's father Aayansh Kumar, a medical store helper

June 13, 2024

been fixed. There were no complications during the surgery," Kumar stated.

He expressed hope that the next 24 hours would be uneventful and that his child's recovery would progress smoothly.

Ankit had earlier told TOI, "We brought Aayansh to AIIMS in Nov 2018, when he was just three months old. After seeing the child in OPD, Dr

Sachin Talwar, professor of cardiothoracic & vascular surgery, had asked him to deposit Rs 60,000 for the surgery and Rs 8,000 for some tests and had given them an appointment for the operation four months later but despite completing all formalities the surgery was not performed."

With TOI reporting the issue and NHRC taking it up, the hospital administration stated that they promptly reached out to the patient's family upon discovering the postponement of the surgery.

However, the family members were unable to arrive at the hospital immediately. They conveyed to the administration that they would be present on June 27.

AIIMS had conducted an inquiry to reveal the reasons for this unprecedented delay, but its findings have not been made public yet.

# Metro records 69L passenger journeys on Fri

New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) recorded over 69 lakh passenger journeys on Friday. It recorded 69,36,425 passenger journeys. On Thursday, the figure stood at 68,57,072.

"On Friday, Delhi Metro recorded an increase of almost 7 lakh additional passenger journeys, which indicates that many passengers preferred to use the Metro instead of their private vehicles or other modes of travel due to heavy rainfall in the city," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC.

"Despite some hindrances caused by minor waterlogging outside station premises and entry/exit points, DMRC continued to provide regular services throughout the day on Friday with excellent punctuality of over 99%," he added.

DMRC defines a passenger journey as the total number of Metro lines used by passengers to complete their journey. However, ridership data includes total tickets sold and Metro cards used by commuters to exit a station. TNN

# Pregnant woman dies at govt hosp, kin cry foul

Anuja.Jaiswal  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A 23-year-old pregnant woman, Monu Kumari, and her unborn child died under mysterious circumstances at Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital, a Delhi govt-run facility in Malviya Nagar, on Saturday. Her family accused the hospital of negligence.

Sudhakar Singh, the husband of Monu Kumari and a resident of Samastipur, alleged that his wife did not receive timely care from a senior doctor, despite her ultrasound of the breast being mar-

ked as "urgent". She was left waiting for nearly three hours before the procedure was conducted.

After the ultrasound report was reviewed, a doctor prescribed pain medication and administered an injection in the emergency room. She was advised to lie down for half an hour and then leave for home. Subsequently, another doctor ordered an ECG. Following these events, the doctors pronounced both the woman and her unborn child dead around 1.30 pm.

Singh, who works in a private sector, claimed that despite his wife experiencing complications, no senior doctor attended to her. Frustrated by the situation, he decided to involve police and file a complaint against the hospital staff. "My wife's body has been sent to a mortuary for postmortem," he said.

Police said in such cases they rely on postmortem report and take opinion from Delhi Medical Council.

Following the tragic incident, Singh expressed his grief and disappointment with the hospital's handling of his wife's case. He alleged that the medical staff failed to

provide adequate care and attention to his wife during her critical condition.

Chandan, a family member of Monu, told TOI that her remains were being transported to All India Institute of Medical Sciences for an autopsy on Sunday.

The postmortem examination will be conducted to determine the cause of Monu's death and gather other crucial evidence related to the case.

When contacted, Dr Pankaj Agarwal, the media nodal officer of the hospital, stated that

based on preliminary details, the patient, who was 38 weeks pregnant, was under the care of a senior gynaecologist. He added, "Until the postmortem happens, we will not be able to comment on details."

Dr Agarwal further said that the patient's body had been handed over to police. "An autopsy will be conducted to know the cause of death. The medical examiner will perform a thorough postmortem examination to determine the factors that led to the patient's demise. Further investigations may be conducted based on the findings of the autopsy".

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Maya & Nari Sabnani  
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# CM's Custodial Interrogation May Be Needed, Says Court

CBI Claims Kejriwal Evasive, Couldn't Explain Hiked Profit Margin

►Continued from P1

The court, taking note of the available material, said the investigation had revealed that Vijay Nair, media in-charge of AAP and an accused in the case, was a close associate of the Delhi CM. He was contacting various liquor manufacturers and traders "for demanding undue gratification" in order to incorporate provisions favourable to them in the policy, said the court.

The name of Kejriwal had surfaced as one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy, the court said.

The agency claimed in its application that Kejriwal did not cooperate with the investigation, gave evasive replies and had failed to give a proper and truthful explanation regarding enhancement of the profit margin for wholesaler from 5% to 12% under the policy without any study or justification.

CBI told the court that Kejriwal could not explain why during the peak of the second wave of Covid pandemic in 2021, cabinet approval for the revised policy was obtained in a hurried manner and within a day when the accused persons of the South Group were camping in Delhi



CM Arvind Kejriwal being brought to court by CBI officials on Saturday

holding meetings with Nair.

He also could not give, CBI claimed, the reasons for Nair holding meetings with various stakeholders in the liquor business in Delhi and of his own meetings with Mangunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, accused Arjun Pandey and accused Mootha Gautham. Reddy is a Telugu Desam Party MP in Lok Sabha and his son, Raghu Magunta Reddy, is an accused-turned-approver in the case. Pandey and Gautham are other accused.

The agency expressed apprehension that Kejriwal be-

ing the CM may use his influence to tamper with the evidence and may also try to influence potential witnesses who are not examined yet

The investigating officer (IO) has pointed out certain incriminatory material for showing that ill-gotten money was used during the Goa assembly elections for making payments towards air tickets and hotel booking during Kejriwal's visits to Goa from June 2021 to February 2022, the court noted.

Further, the court said, the IO has also placed chats of the CM with certain persons involved in the transfer of ill-gotten money to Goa through hawala channels.

Since Kejriwal gave evasive replies regarding his connection with the said persons, his further custodial interrogation may be required to "unearth the larger conspiracy hatched among the accused persons" in the matter, the court said, noting the contents of the case diary.

## AAP protests Kejriwal's arrest by CBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Terming Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by Central Bureau of Investigation in the excise policy case "illegal", Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday staged protests across the country and accused central govt of "misusing" investigating agencies.

AAP said that party workers staged protests at BJP offices in 21 states, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Delhi BJP, however, said the protest was organised to

divert the public attention from the waterlogging.

In a statement, AAP said Delhi emerged as the epicentre of these demonstrations, as hundreds of party workers, led by ministers, MLAs, and municipal councillors, carrying placards and chanting slogans, marched towards BJP office. They were stopped by police barricading much before BJP headquarter. The demonstrators staged a sit-in demanding immediate release of Kejriwal.

Arrested by Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, Kejri-

wal was sent to Tihar jail in judicial custody on April 1. He was interrogated by CBI in jail on Tuesday and was placed under arrest on Wednesday after which a Delhi court sent him to CBI custody for three days. On Saturday, the court sent him to judicial custody for 14 days.

AAP national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said party workers were detained by police during the protests in different parts of the country.

"Kejriwal is not answering the questions asked by the CBI," added Sachdeva.

## 4 policemen held for extorting ₹24L from Panipat resident

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Four policemen have been arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 24 lakh from a Panipat resident by threatening to slap him with money laundering charges on him.

Police sources said these officers had previously been suspended. On May 29, the victim, aiming to send his son abroad for studies, contacted an agent who assured him assistance with a visa. The man was directed to stay at a Laxmi Nagar. "The trouble began when someone claiming to be an associate of the agent visited me. He recorded the money and left," the complainant said.

Later, the associate returned with four policemen. They escorted the man to a police station and threatened to level false hawala charges against him. Fearing serious consequences, he handed over Rs 24 lakh to them.

A senior officer said Inspector Prakash Roy and three other officers from the Laxmi Nagar police station had conducted a raid on a hotel room in Shakarpur during the Model Code of Conduct period during elections without authorisation. This raised suspicions and prompted an inquiry by the ACP.

Following the investigation, the authorities took suo motu cognizance of the matter and registered a case under sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 388 (extortion), and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC.

The victim had written in his complaint that the policemen accused him of having links with Pakistan and being involved in hawala activities. "I maintained that I had no links with Pakistan and was not involved in money laundering. I told them that I was the former sarpanch of my village. Then they began abusing me," the complainant said.

"Upon thorough investigation, the sequence of events was clarified, leading to the arrest of five other suspects. The involvement and responsibility of four cops, including an inspector, two head constables, and a constable, was also established," the officer added.

Consequently, these officers were arrested on June 28.

## SUV knocks down toddler in Noida

**Noida:** A 19-month-old toddler playing with her mother outside her house in Noida sector 63 suffered grievous injuries after being knocked down by an SUV on Friday. The car's driver took the injured kid and her mother to Kailash Hospital. But as a crowd started gathering, he fled. Three police teams have been formed to nab the accused. TNM

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For any clarifications please contact the Joint Director (Marketing), KMF at 74411654034 during office hours.

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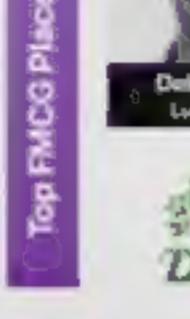
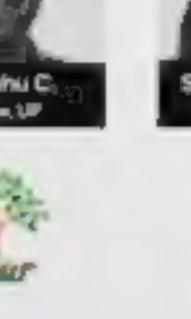
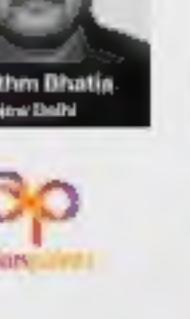
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# Car Driven By 16-Yr-Old Runs Amok In Shahdara, 5 Injured

Minor Apprehended, Bizman Father Likely To Be Booked Too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five people sustained injuries after they were hit by a car driven by a 16-year-old boy in the Jagatpuri area of Shahdara on Saturday. Police have apprehended the minor, who is the son of a businessman, and seized the car. They also plan to book his father who owns the vehicle. The injured were rushed to the hospital after the incident. All of them have minor injuries.

Police said that they received information about the incident, which took place near the Geeta Colony police station, around 8 am. A team of local cops apprehended the driver at the spot.

Further investigation re-

**The 16-year-old boy was returning home with two minor friends after having breakfast in Krishna Nagar. Around 7.40 am, the car collided with a cart vendor near Karkardooma Court. The boy lost control of the vehicle and hit four more people**

vealed that the boy was returning home with two minor friends after having breakfast in Krishna Nagar. Around 7.40 am, the car collided with a cart vendor near Karkardooma Court. The boy told the cops that when the vendor shouted at the minor, he panicked and lost control of the vehicle. This led to him hitting a woman sweeper working on the road and, despite attempts to regain control, he struck

three more pedestrians.

The boy's father owns a shop in Sadar Bazar. Sources said that the minor had left his studies to assist his father in the business. The boy has been booked under different sections of IPC and the Motor Vehicle Act, including those dealing with "rash driving or riding on a public way" and "causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others". The father may be

aged 60 years and above, who are bona fide residents of Delhi and do not have anyone to support or maintain them, are eligible to stay in old age homes provided they do not suffer from any infectious or communicable disease.

Free accommodation, food, clothes, bedding, TV-radio, books, an entertainment centre with frequent religious and spiritual programmes, and facilities for health check-ups and physiotherapy are regularly provided to residents. Officials said round tables are also set up for the elderly so that they can "interact with each other, sit together and talk about their joys and sorrows".

"Though nobody would want to see people living in old age homes, the govt's job is to build such facilities and provide all amenities for their comfortable stay. We will make cutting-edge facilities available free of cost to senior citizens in old age homes," the official said.

Another old age home in Sarita Vihar is likely to be ready in 2025. There are plans to build more such homes in Vasant Kunj, Janakpuri, Rohini, Geeta Colony and Chhatarpur.

The building was completed early this year. We just need to give some final touches, which can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. The no objection certificate from the fire department will have to be taken before the opening of the centre," said an official.

Destitute men and women

## Minor's rape, murder planned, finds probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The investigation into the gang-rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl in outer Delhi's Narela has revealed that the suspects had been planning to commit the crime for a long time. Both had previously attempted to entice the girl but were unsuccessful, police said.

On Thursday they managed to take her to a secluded location to rape and allegedly ended her life when she resisted, a police officer said.

Suspects Rahul (20) and his friend Devdutt (30) were victim's neighbours and she referred to them as elder brothers and would often play with them, the officer said, adding both have a history of liquor addiction, and police are investigating whether they have previously assaulted any other minor.

Police received information about the incident at 12.30 am on June 28. The girl's family informed police that she was playing outside her home and later went missing.

Her body was recovered later and Rahul, who worked in a rubber cylinder tube-man-

**Police are investigating whether the two suspects have previously assaulted any other minor**

king factory and Devdutt, who works in an umbrella factory in Narela, were arrested, the officer said.

During interrogation, both the suspects told cops that they had been planning the crime for a long time and had also tried previously but were not able to find the right opportunity. "On Thursday, they saw the girl playing and, on the pretext of some food, they took her and committed the crime," the officer said.

The families of Rahul and the victim had known each other for several years. The girl used to call him "bhaiya" and would play with him. Rahul often came to her house. Devdutt was also known to the girl and her family as he lived in the other lane in the area. He was a liquor addict, and his wife left him a year ago because of his behaviour, police added.

Destitute men and women

## Govt readies fifth home for sr citizens

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi govt's new home for senior citizens in northwest Delhi's Paschim Vihar is ready and awaiting inauguration. Officials said this would be the fifth such facility in the capital for the old and infirm.

The social welfare department currently operates four old age homes in Bindapur, Wazirpur, Tahirpur and Kanti Nagar, while eight others, including the one in Paschim Vihar, are at various stages of planning and construction.

A senior official of the social welfare department said the five-storey geriatric care building is complete and can be opened anytime for the city's elderly who need shelter. The new residential home for senior citizens will be able to accommodate 96 persons.

"The building was completed early this year. We just need to give some final touches, which can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. The no objection certificate from the fire department will have to be taken before the opening of the centre," said an official.

Another old age home in Sarita Vihar is likely to be ready in 2025. There are plans to build more such homes in Vasant Kunj, Janakpuri, Rohini, Geeta Colony and Chhatarpur.

The building was completed early this year. We just need to give some final touches, which can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. The no objection certificate from the fire department will have to be taken before the opening of the centre," said an official.

Destitute men and women



## 'I considered a medical career, but feel unsure after the NEET scam'

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI has launched **Talk it Out**, a series in which expert counsellors answer your mental health queries.

This week's advice is from counselling psychologist Dr Jyoti Kapoor

**I am a 17-year-old who just started class 12. I opted for the physics-chemistry-maths-biology combination, with hopes of having numerous opportunities and a clear goal. However, it's been a year, and I still don't know what to pursue. Initially, I considered a medical career, but after the NEET scam this year, I feel apprehensive. Competitive exams, in general, intimidate me. Moreover, I lack distinct interests or hobbies; I simply enjoy reading and lazing around. Lately, I've developed a general aversion to studying or anything academic. Even when I attempt to study, I get easily distracted and struggle to focus. Please advise on what steps I can take and other career opportunities.**

— Anonymous

As we approach higher classes, the emphasis is often on opting for a stream that allows for maximum career opportunities, that's the classical approach. But you may have heard from a number of sources now your choice of profession should depend upon your interest and personal inclination rather than what the socio-economic sector offers. Because if you choose something you enjoy, you are more likely to learn it better, practice it with enthusiasm and passion and thus succeed in it. If you can't pinpoint what you enjoy, you may go for aptitude tests which are conducted by qualified clinical psychologists to help you in career counselling. To your current response to the stress associated with indecisiveness, I would say it's an obvious avoidant response because you are overwhelmed by the situation. This makes one anxious, unable to focus or enjoy the things one is not sure of

**I have been devoid of a happy family ever since my birth and never seen peace, contentment, and love among the three of us till date. There is hardly any communication between my parents, and whenever they do talk, even about a minor thing, it always results in disagreements and fights, which leads to bitterness for a long period of time. Added to this, my neighbours verbally and mentally harass my mother as the entire neighborhood knows that nobody would support her, and my father would instead blame my mother for everything. Even her own family has never supported her. This is causing me a lot of mental stress and unfortunately, I no longer desire to stay in such a negative environment. I am moreover a single child and no one talks to me either here or much at school. I am lonely and sad and even frustrated at times. Please help.**

— Anonymous

It's unfortunate that a young person has to deal with an environment that is stressful and feels negative all the time. Our early environment impacts the stress threshold in our nervous system making us wary of any circumstance that can cause harm, be it physical or mental. It's therefore important to either change that environment or learn to manage stress by developing positive perspectives and engaging in activities that inspire positive attitudes. You haven't mentioned your age but I am assuming you are in school and are aware how the environment is impacting you. Even though it's easier said than done for a child to take the necessary action to change their environment, I strongly recommend that your parents are apprised of the situation and seek psychological counselling. Sometimes parents are so overwhelmed with their own issues that they become oblivious to what's happening to their own child and it may help when they are informed what is happening. You need to let them know how you are feeling. If you think you can't talk to your parents directly, please reach out to a school counsellor, family relative, or another adult in your surroundings you can trust to convey your distress and garner your support. At the same time, try to focus on activities that make you feel happier, like sports or theatre. Expressive arts can help you deal with your emotions and understand other people's perspectives. Physical exercise, having a balanced diet and proper sleep pattern helps in better stress coping. I hope you can find a way to communicate with your parents. Sharing this column might help.



### WANT SOME ADVICE?

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**Atishi attends defamation case:** Delhi minister Atishi on Saturday virtually appeared in a defamation complaint filed by BJP's Praveen Shankar Kapoor.

Metropolitan magistrate Tanya Bammali listed the matter for hearing on July 23. The court had refused to issue summons to CM Arvind Kejriwal in the case. ANI

**STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)**  
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**INVITATION TO PROPOSAL**

The State Health Agency Kerala invites qualified agencies for Medical Audit (Direct Audit and Audit), Field Investigations & Verification under AS PMJAY KASP scheme. The agencies shall be selected on basis of the evaluation criteria as provided in this RFP.

All eligible agencies / bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the eProcurement portal (<http://www.tenders.kerala.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. All communications with the State Health Agency shall be through Registered AD, Speed Post AD or e-mail with the authorized representative of the Bidder.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their proposals to the "RFP" on or before 17:00 hours, 17 July 2024.

Date : 29.06.2024

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**Appeal for Identification**



General public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 Yrs, Height: 5'2", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Face : Round, Built: Medium, Wearing : Dark Green Colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Pant, Place of Recovery: Found in unconscious condition near Ajmeri Gate Chowk, Kamla Market, New Delhi. He was admitted to LNJP Hospital, Delhi, where doctor declared him brought dead. The dead body of deceased has been preserved for 72 hrs. in MAMC Mortuary for identification.

In this regard DD No. 66A, Dated 17.06.2024 has been lodged at Police Station; Kamla Market, New Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S.: Kamla Market, New Delhi  
Ph: 011-23230623, 011-23233743  
DP/8367/CD/2024

# 3-Minister Panel To Probe Tree Cutting

Formed For Felling On Southern Ridge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi cabinet, in a meeting on Saturday, unanimously decided to constitute a three-minister fact-finding committee to investigate the orders behind the illegal felling of 1100 trees in Southern Ridge. The committee comprises Saurabh Bharadwaj, Karmal, and Imran Hussain.

Environment minister Gopal Rai said, "A shocking incident has come to light from Chhatarpur, Sabari in Delhi that in Feb, the DDA violated all the rules and cut 1100 trees without permission from any agency or govt. The hearing of this case is going on in the Supreme Court. The court is repeatedly asking the vice chairperson of DDA on whose orders 1100 trees were cut illegally in the capital Delhi."

"The Apex court is asking whether this order was given by the LG because the communication of some DDA engineers shows that the LG had visited the forest reserve area of Chhatarpur and these trees were cut on his verbal orders. The Supreme Court wants to know the truth behind this. The court has asked the vice chairman of DDA to file his reply by the next hearing. In the hearing of June 26, the Supreme Court had asked the forest department to file its status report," Rai said at a press conference.

Rai chaired a meeting with senior officials of the forest department on June 26 at Delhi Secretariat. "The officer informed me that they had sent two notices to DDA on March 5 and 22 regarding the illegal cutting of trees in two different areas of Delhi, but no response came. Considering the seriousness of this matter, I instructed them to submit a written report of all the incidents that happened from Feb till now by 11 am on June 27. But when the report did not reach us by 11 am, then our office contacted the officials of the forest department. They said that you first give us instructions in writing, and after that, we will submit all the reports," said Rai.

He added that he gave written instructions to the forest department along with the minutes of the meeting to send him a report of by 11 am on June 28, but he did not receive the report.

Rai said the senior officer of the forest department said he is on leave and hence, the next notice was sent on June 28.

"The fact-finding committee will find out the truth of such a large number of trees felled in Delhi. After this, govt will put it before the Supreme Court. This can prevent any kind of illegal action in the green area of Delhi," added Rai.

**The committee will find out the truth of such a large number of trees felled in Delhi. After this, govt will put it before the Supreme Court, Rai said. This can prevent any kind of illegal action in the city's green area, he added**

# After 2 shootouts with cops, man dies in 'accidental firing'

Avishek.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Ghaziabad: A 22-year-old man who allegedly put up staunch resistance against a relative's arrest, first thwarting a Delhi Police team and then taking on a UP Police team, died of a gunshot wound on Friday, apparently sustained during a scuffle with the cops just as they had managed to corner him.

Rehan, who police said was injured when his own pistol fired accidentally during the scuffle, was admitted to GTB hospital in Delhi where he succumbed to his injuries.

A Delhi Police team was in Loni to arrest Mannu alias Sohail in a vehicle theft case. Rehan allegedly tried to stop them and fired at the police team, which allowed Mannu to escape. Subsequently, a Ghaziabad police team went to the locality to arrest Rehan. As Rehan fired at the police team again, head constable Vijay Rath (29) sustained bullet injuries. He is admitted to hospital.

Police said Rehan had a criminal record. Both he and Mannu were related to Feroz alias Fauji, the UP-based gangster who was gunned down in an encounter in 2014 by Delhi Police.

DCP (rural) Vivek Yadav said, "Around 2.30pm, a Delhi Police went to Dabat Talab to catch the accused. They were accompanied by two constables from Ankur Vihar police station. Mannu was arrested but just as they were taking him away, Rehan fired a few rounds. The Delhi cops also fired but Mannu escaped. Later, the Delhi team left. The constables informed Loni police station about the incident through wireless."

A five-member Ghaziabad police team led by a sub-inspector subsequently went to Mannu's house but came under fire from Mannu and Rehan, who had taken cover on the terrace of a neighbouring house. "One of the bullets

hit Vijay's shoulder," said the DCP. Police said the exchange of fire continued for around five minutes after which the cops caught Rehan. "When the team tried to take the pistol from his hand, it fired accidentally and a bullet hit his thigh," Yadav said, adding Rehan was declared dead around 9.30pm. Mannu managed to escape.

An FIR was filed against Rehan and Mannu under section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC and relevant sections of the Arms Act at Loni police station. Earlier this month, Shabnam (70), the oldest member of Rehan's family, was arrested for selling narcotics. Imraan Pehlwan (41), Rehan's father, was arrested in 2017 in an Arms Act case. In 2019, he was an accused in a murder case.

Mannu is wanted in Noida, Delhi, Baghpat and Ghaziabad in 10 cases of robbery, theft, attempt to murder and extortion. Rehan, police sources said, was booked in four cases of extortion, attempt to murder and Arms Act. This Feb, he had allegedly tried to extort a local businessman.

oid snarls and rough roads. Gaurav Kumar, a commuter and resident of Delhi, said that the condition of the road is not good right now. "The dust and uneven surface are creating traffic jams and posing safety hazards especially for bikers. This needs to be completed as soon as possible," Kumar said.

## Mahamaya flyover revamp affects Noida-Delhi traffic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Noida:** The Noida Authority has started resurfacing work on the Noida to Delhi side of the Mahamaya Flyway, affecting traffic. Officials said the rains have halted the work for now but it will take 10 days to finish after they resume the resurfacing.

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# IN THE QUEST TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE BEST FOOD, **ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON ONE IMPORTANT THING?**

It could have traces of  
chemicals and pesticides in it.

As moms and caregivers, you always strive to choose the best for your family, especially when it comes to food. You check the quality, the label for ingredients, the price, the expiry date, and the place you buy from to ensure you pick top-quality groceries. However, how many of us truly know what is in our food? How safe is it really for our families?

Today, much of the food we consume may be laden with chemicals and pesticides. And no matter how thoroughly we wash our food before cooking, these substances may not be completely removed. This is why it is crucial to choose food that is organically grown. Like Amul Organic. Trusted for over 75 years, Amul ensures that through our organic farming practices, we provide our consumers with only the best and safest groceries. Our products are rigorously tested to be free from over 225+ harmful chemicals and pesticides, so you can make a safe and healthy choice for your family.



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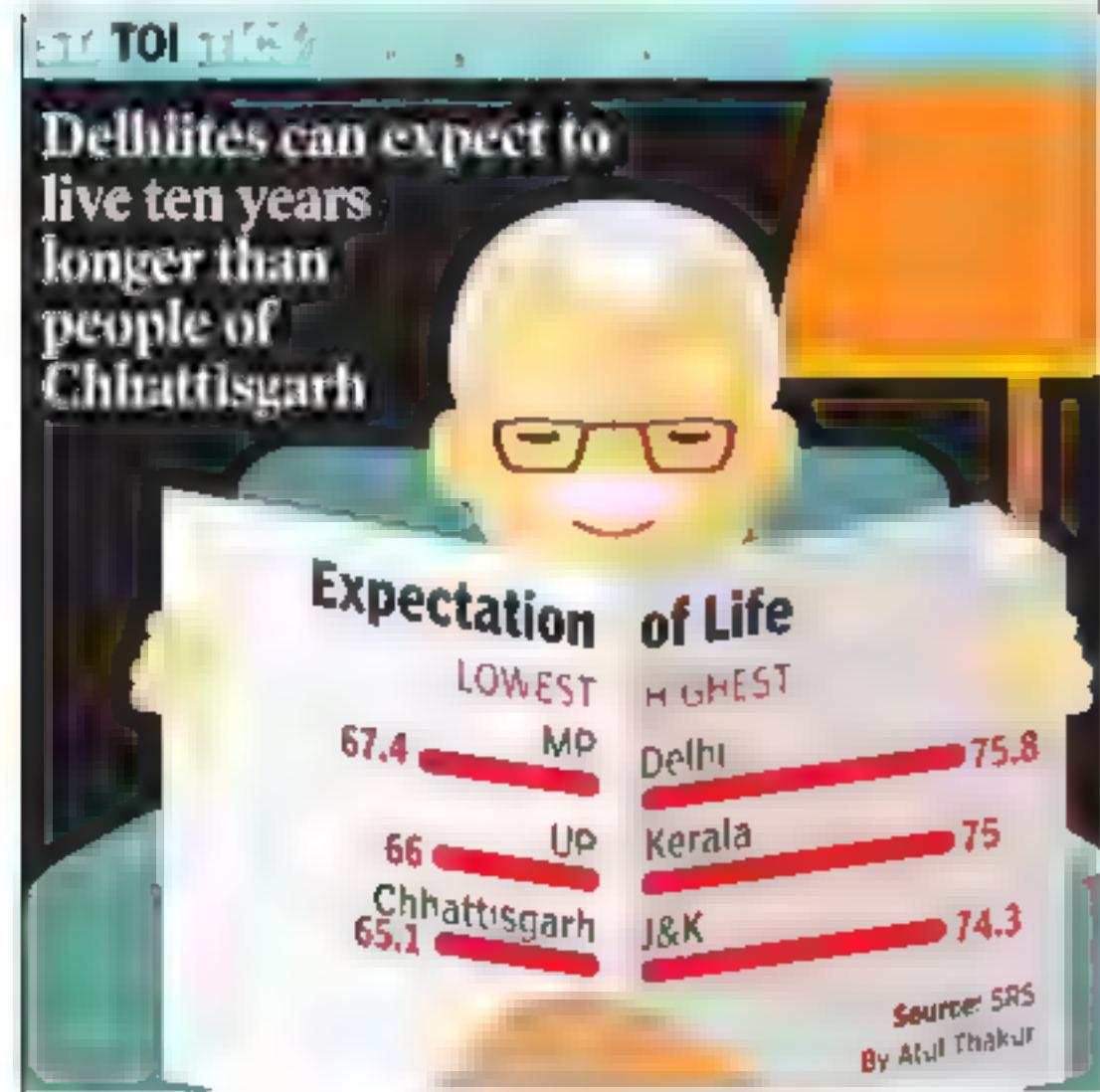
An asteroid explosion in Siberia's Tunguska on this day in 1908 had a force 1,000 times greater than Hiroshima A-bomb

## Graft FIR against passport officials

CBI has registered 12 FIRs against passport officials posted at Passport Seva Kendra in Mumbai's Maha and Lower Parel, and touts for engaging in corruption to issue passports based on forged documents. CBI said the touts would bribe passport officials to issue passports by avoiding mandatory document verification with the help of forged documents. In some instances, they issued passports despite pending criminal cases against applicants, thus 'compromising national security of our country'. CBI searched 33 premises and seized evidence related to passport documents. The agency is examining role of senior passport officials. TNN

## Jawan gets jail for pilgrim death

A jawan of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was sentenced to two years of imprisonment Friday by the court of a judicial magistrate in Joshimath, Chamoli district for reckless driving resulting in the death of a pilgrim during Char Dham yatra on Nov 10, 2021. The incident occurred near Mana Tirtha in Badrinath town when 29-year-old Sandhya, a native of Haryana, was on a pilgrimage with her husband and 5-year-old son. While crossing the road to her hotel, she was struck by a speeding four-wheeler driven by the intoxicated jawan, identified as Deepak Parki, a resident of Pithoragarh. Despite efforts to save her, the woman died upon reaching the hospital. TNN



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**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of the President of India The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-procurement Tenders

**ITJARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Dear Fellowmen, Sahasthik Road, P.O. Kultau, Dehradun Pincode 248013 Email: [ucada@ucada.gov.in](mailto:ucada@ucada.gov.in)  
Letter No. 1348/UCADA/2024/SingleEngine Date: 29.05.2024  
**TENDER FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER OPERATOR FOR ONE YEAR FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES (RETENDER)**

Govt. of Jharkhand is looking for a helicopter operator for Disaster Management services and Other M/s purposes in Jharkhand for a period of 01 Year.

1. Date of download tender document at ucadas.gov.in 29.05.2024 Time 1800 HRS  
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting 01/06/2024 Time 1130 HRS  
3. Last Date for online submission of Tender 05/07/2024 Time 1400 HRS  
4. Last date for submission of documents physically at UCADA 05/07/2024 Time 1400 HRS  
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid 05/07/2024 Time 1530 HRS  
6. Date of opening of financial bids - Shall be informed later by email to the technically qualified bidders.

For more details please visit [ucadas.gov.in](http://ucadas.gov.in) official website [www.ucada.in](http://www.ucada.in) Jharkhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Deon Haldwani, Sahasthik Road, P.O. - Kultau, Dehradun, Jharkhand 248013

**DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KISHTWAR**

**LOOK OUT NOTICE**

As intimated by Dy. Superintendent of Police Hqrs. Kishtwar vide letter No. DySP/Hqrs/CRB/24/3745 dated 19.06.2024 that one Mamoonia Latif R/o Abdul Latif Butt R/o Rahal Inderwala A/P Shakti Nagar Kishtwar District Kishtwar had gone missing and her missing report was entered DD No. 03 dated 16-06-2024 at PS Kishtwar. The photograph/descriptive roll of missing girl is as under:-

Photo	Description
	Name: Mamoonia Latif Parentage/Spouse: Abdul Latif Butt Resident of: Rahal Inderwala A/P Shakti Nagar Kishtwar District Kishtwar Age: 16 Years Complexion: Wheatish Height: 5' 6" Face: Round

It is therefore, requested that kindly have a sharp look out, if traced or any clue leading to the above missing girl, immediate information may kindly be sent on the below mentioned Email/Address/Fax/Telephone numbers -

Email: [sspkishtwar@kpolice.gov.in](mailto:sspkishtwar@kpolice.gov.in) +91995-259353 (Phone)  
Email: [dpkishtwar@kpolice.gov.in](mailto:dpkishtwar@kpolice.gov.in) +91995-261439 (Fax)

**Superintendent of Police District Kishtwar**

Mr. Rakesh Sisodia Date: 25.06.2024  
Dated: 25.06.2024  
FIR No. Dp-136/24/24/28/06/24

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPSS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. For any change/erratum in tender please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/charge will be published in news paper.

1136/24(A)

# CPM received crime proceeds in Kerala bank scam, says ED

'Party Collected Money From Beneficiaries Of Benami Loans'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kochi:** Kerala's governing CPM is in possession of proceeds of crime in the Karuvannur bank fraud and it has been invested in immovable properties and credited to five accounts of the party in Karuvannur Service Co-operative Bank Ltd, Enforcement Directorate claimed on Saturday.

CPM received funds from beneficiaries as donations through the bank's governing body, the central agency said in a statement.

ED sources said the agency was carrying out PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) investigation in the case by considering the party as a respondent. Official sources said the party may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after Aam Aadmi Party. AAP was recently named by the ED in the Delhi excise policy case



Loan amounts were disbursed in cash to prevent money trail, ED said

ED confirmed in the statement that it has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 29.29 crore of various individuals and entities, includ-

ties valued at Rs 28.65 crore, consisting of land and buildings in Kerala belonging to beneficiaries of the scam, the agency said. This includes an

**Sources said CPM may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation**

ing CPM's Thrissur district secretary, as part of the investigation. The attached assets include 18 immovable proper-

ties valued at Rs 28.65 crore, consisting of land and buildings in Kerala belonging to beneficiaries of the scam, the agency said. This includes an

## Oppn may field SP's Faizabad MP for dy Speaker contest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and Congress are exploring the option of projecting SP's Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad as INDIA bloc's deputy Speaker candidate. Prasad (78) is a Dalit who won the unreserved seat that covers Ayodhya. This comes amid reports that Congress was keen to have K. Suresh — an eight-time MP from Kerala — as opposition bloc's deputy speaker pick.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Samajwadi president Akhilesh Yadav and Lok Sabha leader of opposition Rahu. Gandhi has already discussed this and are likely to take it up with other allies, said sour-

ces. The sources added the nomination of Prasad was an idea of West Bengal chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, who conveyed it to nephew Abhishek.

According to sources, the three INDIA bloc senior partners seemed to agree that Prasad would be an "out-of-the-box" candidate and his nomination would carry "strong symbolism" as he won the high-stakes contest by over 50,000 votes.

While conferring with Rahul and Akhilesh, Abhishek suggested that choosing INDIA bloc's deputy Speaker pick should "send out a strong message", said sources. He focused on symbolism since numbers don't stack up for INDIA bloc if there is a contest

A Trinamool MP said: "IN

DIA bloc will contest for the

deputy Speaker's post. In the

remaining three days of this

session... even later... we will

collectively demand the post

A consensus is being worked

out on possible nominees."

Article 93 of the Constitution says the Lok Sabha "shall choose two of its members as Speaker and deputy Speaker". The 17th LS was the first since Independence which didn't have a deputy Speaker.

Asked about the situation in which INDIA didn't accept the opposition's proposal of a deputy speaker election, the TMC MP added: "The 17th Lok Sabha and the 18th Lok Sabha are very different.

There's an NDA govt now, not a BJP govt. We will continue to aggressively push for the election in this session and all following sessions."

While conferring with Ra-

hul and Akhilesh, Abhishek

suggested that choosing IN-

DI A bloc's deputy Speaker

pick should "send out a strong

message", said sources. He fo-

cused on symbolism since num-

bers don't stack up for IN-

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deputy Speaker's post. In the

remaining three days of this

session... even later... we will

collectively demand the post

A consensus is being worked

out on possible nominees."

In a post on X, Lalu shared

an article "The Sangh Silence

in 1975" written by him and

journalist Nalin Verma. In the

article, they attacked BJP-led

govt and said that although 1975

is a stain on country's democra-

cy, let's not forget who doesn't

respect the opposition in 2024

"I was in jail under MISA

for 15 months. My colleagues

and I did not know many of

BJP ministers speaking about

Emergency today," he posted on X. "Indira put many of us

behind bars, but she never

abused us. Neither she nor her

ministers called us 'anti na-

tional' or 'unpatriotic'. TNN

Speaking in Kolhapur, Pa-

war said that instead of any

individual, the alliance

Maha Vikas Aghadi — itself

is a "consensual face" and

co-jective leadership would

be the approach to the polls.

Recently, Raut had said

that a chief ministerial face

was necessary for the as-

sembly elections. However,

Pawar pointed out that in the

recent LS elections, MVA

was ahead in 155 of the 288

assembly segments. This,

the NCP (SCP) chief said, re-

veals the trend and proves

that MVA is in a good positi-

on to win assembly polls.

'We won 30 seats and one

MP extended support to us.

This shows the trend among

people. LS election results

have put the governing Ma-

hayuti in shock. That is why

the (state) interim budget

presented is full of flowery

promises," added Pawar. TNN

At key meet, JD(U) reiterates spl status demand for Bihar

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

Cong takes 'state cabinet' dig at JD(U)

Highlighting that JD(U) — a critical ally in NDA govt at the Centre — has just passed a resolution reiterating demand for special category status in central assistance to Bihar, Congress sought to know if CM Nitish Kumar will summon the state cabinet also pass such a resolution.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh shared video snippets on X drawing from speeches of PM Modi where he is seen assuring the people of Bihar & Andhra Pradesh of addressing and delivering on their demands and concerns. TNN

in reviving BJP-JD(U) alliance, which defied the challenge of INDIA bloc in Bihar.

Following his appointment, Jha said PM Modi has always paid attention to Bihar and expressed hope that the party's demand for special category status or a package for the state would be met.

Jha's elevation was welcomed by BJP. "We welcome Nitish Kumar's decision to appoint Sanjay Jha working president of JD(U). It's a move to promote NDA's stability as Jha has worked for better JD(U)-BJP ties since 2015," said BJP LS MP Vivek Thakur.

**MVA doesn't need CM face in Maha polls: Pawar**

**Kolhapur:** NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar Saturday countered ally and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's claim about the necessity for a CM face in the Maharashtra assembly elections later this year, reports **Ahilleo Patil**.

Speaking in Kolhapur, Pawar said that instead of any individual, the alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi — itself is a "consensual face" and collective leadership would be the approach to the polls.

Recently,





# Govt panel to finalise new base year for GDP

To Also Advise On New Data Sources

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) ministry has notified the setting up of a 26-member panel to oversee the revision of the base year for national accounts.

The panel headed by Biswanath Goldar, former professor of Institute of Economic Growth, has been tasked to review the existing databases and advise on inclusion of new data sources for improving the estimates of national accounts.

"To advise on the methodology for compilation and presentation of National Accounts Statistics for purposes of economic analysis and policy including methodology for seasonal adjustment of quarterly national accounts and on promotion of research in the field of National Accounts Statistics," a gazette notification said while detailing the terms of reference of the panel.

The panel will also advise on the base year for national accounts and its alignment with other related products like wholesale price index, producer price index, consumer price index, index of industrial production among others. The base year now used is 2011-12 and an advisory committee had recommended 2020-21 as the new base year.

It has also asked to advise on implementation of latest UN standards, adoption of new classifications recommended by the UN Statistics Division in development of sequence of accounts for various institutional sectors.

The tenure of this committee will be five years or till the completion of next base year revision of national accounts, whichever is later. For operational feasibility, the committee may constitute sub committees on different aspects with maximum tenure of two years, according to the notification.

India should continue its data driven policy making in order to move along its development trajectory, Arvind Panagariya, chairman of the 16th Finance Commission said on Saturday.

"The challenge of the current times is to produce authentic, robust and accurate statistics to cope with the huge demand for information that is now almost universally accessible through digital and other channels," said Panagariya in his address at the 18th Statistics Day, which is held to mark the birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis who led the foundation for statistics and economic planning in the country.

"The need of the hour is to ensure the availability of accurate data so that these can be appropriately fed into the decision making processes through the aid of modern technology," said Panagariya, who was earlier the vice chairman of govt think tank Niti Aayog.

Panagariya also urged MoSPI to create a portal, which will serve as a "home" for the data of the finance commission. "Somebody needs to take the lead in creating a home for this data on a permanent basis so that the work of the commission will get much smoothed out for at least in the future," said the 16th FC chairman. TNN

## World Bank OKs \$1.5bn financing for green H<sub>2</sub> projects in India

New Delhi: The World Bank's Board has approved \$1.5 billion loans to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy. The operation will seek to promote the development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments, according to the multilateral agency.

The programme will support reforms to boost the production of green hydrogen and electrolyzers. It also supports reforms to boost renewable energy penetration, for instance, by incentivising battery energy storage solutions and amending the Indian Electricity Grid Code to improve renewable energy integration into the grid. The financing includes a \$1.46 billion loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a \$31.5 million credit from International Development Association (IDA).

"The World Bank is pleased to continue supporting India's low-carbon development strategy which will help achieve the country's net-zero target while creating clean energy jobs in the private sector," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director for India.

The reforms are expected to result in the production of at least 450,000 metric tonnes of green hydrogen and 1,500 MW of electrolyzers per year from FY25/26 onwards. It will also help to increase renewable energy capacity and support reductions in emissions by 50 million tonnes per year. TNN

## Comic cancels show after MLA threat over joke

Hyderabad: A stand-up show by comic Daniel Fernandes at a restaurant in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills was cancelled on Saturday after BJP MLA T Raja Singh threatened to disrupt it if alleged over the artist's objectionable remarks on Jain community.

Raja released a video threatening to beat up Fernandes if he went ahead with the show. Police reached the restaurant only to find that the event was cancelled.

Fernandes had recently joked about members of the Jain community dressing up as Muslims to goats from being slaughtered on Bakrid. TNN

## Judiciary must be free from political bias, says Didi in presence of CJI

Debasish Konar@timesgroup.com



Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday made a strong pitch for the judiciary to be free from "political bias", while speaking at the inauguration of a two-day conference organised by National Judicial Academy in Kolkata.

Addressing the gathering that comprised CJI D Y Chandrachud, senior Supreme Court judges including justices B R Gavai, Dipak Misra, Datta and Rajesh Bhandari, and Calcutta high court chief justice T Sivagnanam, among others, Mamata said: "It is not my intention to humiliate anyone. But it is my kind submission, a humble submission... please see to it that there are no political biases in the judiciary. The judiciary must be absolutely pure, honest and sacred, and let people revere it like a temple."

The CJI appeared to concur, as he said judges should refrain from allowing their personal ideologies to influence their judgments.

Mamata's remarks come at a time when her govt's relationship with the judiciary has been fraught with tension, with the CM even criticising some of the HC rulings in the recent past.

In a post on her X handle later, she said: "Judiciary stands as a guardian of our constitutional rights, a beacon of justice, and a cornerstone of our democratic framework. In these times, more than ever, we must strive to uphold the purity and honesty of our judicial processes, free from any political bias. People place immense faith in the judiciary."

Banerjee was speaking at inauguration of a two-day conference organised by National Judicial Academy in Kolkata

looking to it as a source of fairness and truth. It is this trust that we must honour and protect."

Chandrachud, on his part, emphasised that judgments should be based on constitutional morality, not a judge's idea of morality. Reminding the judges that they were "servants" of the constitution, not its "masters", he said the values judges had espoused were values the Constitution had enshrined for them, whether they liked it or not — "that is, a society based on human dignity, fraternity, equality, liberty, respect for all, tolerance for all and inclusion of all".

The CJI, however, expressed reservations at the use of the term "temple of justice" for courts. "Because 'temples' postulate that judges are in the role of deities. I would rather recast the role of judges as servers of the people. Then you bring that compassion and empathy — judging people but not being judgmental about people."

E-TENDER NOTICE  
E Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Chief Project Manager (GATI SHAKTI), E.C. Railway Dhanbad dt 27/06/2024

SI. No. 1 E-Tender No. 05-GS-DHN-024-25 Name of the work with its location & completion period: DCRP Se-er Elimination of Level Crossing No.3/A3T 4/A2T 6/C3T 10/MC-7 & JK-07/08 by Road Under Bridge (RUB) in DCRP section, 18 (Eighteen) Months Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) 136.32 51 494.97/- Earnest Money (In Rs.)

Ernest Money is applicable as shown in <http://www.wrps.gov.in> portal. Date & time for closing and opening of e-tender Date of closing e-tender at 17:00 hours on 27/07/2024 Date of opening of e-tender from 12:00 hrs. on 23/07/2024 Website pariculars: <http://www.wrps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against tendering.

Note: (i) In case of difference between information in Hindi and English languages only English language, will be valid (ii) Prospective bidders are directed to take note of any changes and comprehend in the process of issue of the e-tender at least fifteen days prior to the closing of bid on the website <http://www.wrps.gov.in>.

Chief Project Manager (GATI Shakti)  
East Central Railway, Dhanbad  
PR/00595/DHNGS/ENGGT/24-25/36

Ref No SPAV/Estl/Rect/Teaching

## BJP set to contest Haryana polls on its own, declares Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Undeterred by the loss of five seats in Lok Sabha polls in Haryana, senior BJP leader and home minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced that the party will contest the forthcoming assembly polls in the state solo and exhorted party workers to gear up for a two-thirds majority.

"We have lost a few seats in Haryana by small margins but our vote share has

been. Shah made it clear that the party does not intend to make concessions to woo the formerly back.

Shah sought to play down BJP's less-than-expected performance in LS polls, focusing on PM's feat

"BJP got 5% more votes in the last election than in the previous election. On the other hand, BJP alone has won more seats than the total number of seats won by all INDIA Alliance parties," the home minister asserted.

He said that Congress is trying to make their defeat in the Lok Sabha election look like a victory through false propaganda.

"BJP got 5% more votes in the last election than in the previous election. On the other hand, BJP alone has won more seats than the total number of seats won by all INDIA Alliance parties," the home minister asserted.

The World Bank is pleased to continue supporting India's low-carbon development strategy which will help achieve the country's net-zero target while creating clean energy jobs in the private sector," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director for India.

The reforms are expected to result in the production of at least 450,000 metric tonnes of green hydrogen and 1,500 MW of electrolyzers per year from FY25/26 onwards. It will also help to increase renewable energy capacity and support reductions in emissions by 50 million tonnes per year. TNN

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**Mysuru man loses Rs 2.9 crore in crypto scam:** A resident of Mysuru's Saraswathipuram lost Rs 2.9 crore in a crypto scam. TNN

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. NRICB/Workshop/Juna/Radiator/2024R2 Date: 29/06/2024 For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Train Set), Northern Railway Charbagh Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below: Tender No. VI-CB-21-Radiator-2024R2 Name of Work: Shipping, Cleaning, Overhauling, Testing & Fitment of Radiator Assembly in MEMU Motor Coaches as per scope of Work. Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 28,41,440/- Earnest Money / Bid Security: ₹ 56,800/- only. Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0/- only. Period of Contract: 12 Months. Date & Time for Submission of Tender: From 05.07.2024 to 22.07.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time for Opening of Tender: After 15:15 Hrs. on 22.07.2024. This tender form may be submitted on the website [www.inrps.gov.in](http://www.inrps.gov.in) from 08.07.2024 to 22.07.2024 (up to 15:00 Hrs.). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender; any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payment against the tender towards tender document cost and Earnest Money. Bid security only cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above, in case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the technical and commercial offers. Even suo-moto post letter of the tender shall be treated as NULL & VOID.

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(जि. अमृताबाल, उत्तराखण्ड )  
दूरध्वांस: ( 05966 ), 220620

### निवादा स्मरण

विद्युत वित्तान भवन रामेश्वर निवादे विवादाना स्मरण करता है।

क्र. सं.	निवादा संख्या	कार्य का नाम	इनिवादा का जारी करने की अंकतात्त्वात्/अंग्रेजी लाइसेंस अनुबंध सम्बन्धी कार्य	इनिवादा तक समय
1	वि.वि.म (रा) 01/2024-25	विद्युताखण्ड, रामेश्वर के अन्तर्गत बायडी पर्सन्या पेयजल योजना में विद्युत मर्यादानामिति किये जाने वेतु 11 केवी० लाइन नियम एवं विद्युत सम्पर्कीय कार्यालय के आपूर्ति (संघीय टर्मिनों) सम्बन्धी कार्य	23.07.2024 15.00 बजे तक	24.07.2024 12.00 बजे
2	वि.वि.म (रा) 02/2024-25	विद्युताखण्ड, रामेश्वर के अन्तर्गत बायडी पर्सन्या पेयजल योजना का वार्षिक अनुबंध सम्बन्धी कार्य	23.07.2024 15.00 बजे तक	24.07.2024 12.00 बजे
3	वि.वि.म (रा) 03/2024-25	विद्युताखण्ड, रामेश्वर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 केवी० उपर्यान जालाना का वार्षिक अनुबंध सम्बन्धी कार्य	23.07.2024 15.00 बजे तक	24.07.2024 12.00 बजे

उक्त इनिवादाओं की अनु नियम व गत वर्ष विसमाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर हो रही है। उक्त इनिवादाओं का शुल्क प्रतिविवादिकाना/नियमों का अधिकार अधिकारी की सुनवा वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) में ही प्रकाशित वलायती ग्रामीण अधिकार अधिकारी Customer To.1 Free No-1800 419 0405 "राज्य में विज्ञान ज्ञान"। RO-1797 dt 29/06/2024

### OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER GOVT. OF MADHYA PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH BHAWAN 29-C & D, JESUS AND MARY MARG CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021 Phone No. 011-28772001, 2002

NIT NO. 15/CIVIL/MPB/2024 TENDER NOTICE Date: 20/06/2024

Online tenders for Annual Supply of Civil Items at Madhya Pradesh Bhawan Plot No. 29-C/D, Jesus & Mary Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi and Madhyanchal, 12 IHC Pocket, Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi are invited with bid system (Technical bid & Financial bid) through e-Tendering website [www.mprbprb.gov.in](http://www.mprbprb.gov.in) or [www.mprbprb.gov.in](http://www.mprbprb.gov.in) in the prescribed proforma from interested parties. Registered Firms/ Registered Organizations/ Agencies

S No	Description	Date
1	last date and time of submission	15.07.2024 upto 3:00 pm
2	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid	16.07.2024 at 3:00 pm
3	Pre bid meeting	05.07.2024 at 03:00 pm
4	Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bid of qualified bidder	23.07.2024 at 03:00 pm





Government of Haryana

दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी ने हमें अंत्योदय का मार्ग दिखाया था। यानि जो समाज की आखिरी पंक्ति में हैं, उनका उदय। 21वीं सदी का भारत इसी विचार से प्रेरणा लेते हुए अंत्योदय के लिए काम कर रहा है। जो विकास के आखिरी पायदान पर है, उसे विकास के पहले पायदान पर लाने के लिए काम हो रहा है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



## Social Security Pension Distribution to New Beneficiaries

under financial assistance scheme, Old-Age Allowance, Disability pension, Widow pension and to widowers and unmarried persons

Pension Distribution to **75,000** New beneficiaries

Under Mukhya Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (MMGAY), **6300** beneficiaries will be given Adhikaar Patra

- Financial assistance of up to Rs. One lakh or actual price of the plot (whichever is less)
- Adhikaar Patras will also be distributed in 17 other districts Ambala, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Hisar, Jind, Jhajjar, Karnal, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Sirsa, Sonipat and Yamunanagar

Benefits distribution to Beneficiaries under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Awas Navnirikarn Yojana

### State Level Program

Chief Guest

## Sh. Nayab Singh

Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence

Sh. Bishamber Singh  
Minister of State (I.C.)  
for SEWA, Haryana

Sh. Subhash Sudha  
Minister of State (I.C.),  
Housing for All, Haryana

For more information  
regarding Adhikaar Patra

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Visit the website [www.hfa.haryana.gov.in](http://www.hfa.haryana.gov.in)

Date - June 30, 2024 | Time - 2 PM  
Venue - Anaj Mandi, Panipat

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## UGC's push for pen-paper NET, CUET-UG now under scanner

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) late on Friday announced new dates for three exams: National Common Entrance Test (NCET), University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), and Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-UGC-NET. All these exams will be conducted as computer-based tests (CBT). This raises the question: why were UGC NET and Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET-UG), overseen by UGC and administered by NTA, shifted to pen-paper and hybrid (partially pen-paper) modes respectively? Ministry of education as well as seven member exam panel are reviewing these changes made "at the insistence of UGC", reports *Manash Gohain*.

Investigations into the alleged Central Selection Board of Constable (CSBC) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2024 paper leak cases revealed security breaches during transportation of question papers. This has led to scrutiny of NTA, which was established to conduct "high quality" exams digitally with minimal human interference and in collaboration with a credible technology partner.

An NTA source stated, "UGC insisted on making CUET-UG hybrid or pen-paper in 2023 itself. However, NTA did agree and conducted the exam in CBT mode. The first edition faced a lot of criticism due to technical glitches, and in 2023, it was conducted over a month. However, like JEE (Main), the exam's integrity was not questioned and there were no technical glitches. With change of leadership in NTA last year, UGC once again wanted the exam to be conducted in hybrid mode, with papers for a large number of candidates delivered in pen-paper mode."

Despite criticism over delays, glitches, and centres lacking basic amenities, NTA has been "performing adequately with computer-based JEE (Main) and UGC-NET since 2018," according to a senior MoE official. "It is intriguing that UGC report only wanted UGC-NET to be in pen-paper mode, and this decision by the commission also needs to be questioned."

# Principal's arrest stuns Hazaribag

## Haque Had Turned Oasis Into One Of Dist's Most Prestigious Schools

Vishvendu Jaipuriar  
@timesgroup.com

**Hazaribag:** Arrest of principal of Hazaribag's Oasis School, Ehsanul Haque, by CBI in NEET-UG paper leak case has left those who have known him since his days of struggle in shock and disbelief. Many of them find it hard to accept that the soft-spoken teacher, who built the reputation of Oasis as the city's premier school from scratch, could be involved in the paper leak.

Haque, 42, once ran a coaching institute called 'Seed' on Pugmil Road in the city. In 2013, he was roped in to head the Oasis School, located on Mandai Road in Hazaribag district, at its inception by its owner and chairman, Shabbir Ahmad.

He faced significant challenges, right from taking the school to new heights to securing CBSE affiliation, but succeeded in both, making Oasis one of Hazaribag's most sought-after schools, thanks to its top-notch infrastructure and faculty.

The school, which started with 100+ students in 2013, now has over 4,000 students and over 40 teachers, and runs from a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities for academics and sports. The school got CBSE affiliations for classes X and XII in 2020.

Sources said a total of 118 students appeared in class X board exams in 2022-2023, and the school had a 100% pass percentage, with 38 stu-

## Prime accused among 9 held in Gauhati univ marksheets scam

**Gauhati:** Nine people, including the prime accused, have been arrested so far in an alleged marksheets scam in Gauhati University. Police said on Saturday Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had on Thursday revealed the alleged scam at a press briefing in Guwahati, reports *Mukut Das*.

The arrests were made from Guwahati, Barpeta and Dhubri. The latest one was made on Friday. Six to seven cases have

come to light in Barpeta and the prime accused, who is in charge of the firm responsible for computerised marksheets system, was arrested.

The scam came to light when authorities at Ganesh Lal Chaudhary College in Barpeta Road detected forged marks of Azizul Haque, a sixth semester undergraduate student, prompting a detailed probe that led to arrest of eight individuals from across Assam.

Pradeep Kumar, a teacher in

## CAUGHT IN THE NEET NET

A nationwide investigation into the NEET exam fraud has led to numerous arrests, uncovering a vast network of people — including junior engineers, teachers, school administrators, students, and political functionaries — suspected of involvement in leaking question papers, providing answer keys, and arranging dummy candidates.

### BIHAR, JHARKHAND

**May 5 (Patna):** 13 arrested, including four aspirants and three parents. Key figures: Sikandar Yadavendra (junior engineer), his driver Birju, Amit Anand, Nitish Kumar, Mukesh, and Roshan Kumar. **Charges:** Providing question solvers, handling aspirants, transporting to safe houses.

**June 21 (Deoghar, Jharkhand):** Six arrested — Paramjot Singh alias Birju, Bardev Kumar alias Chintu, Prashant Kumar alias Kaju, Ajit Kumar, Rajiv Kumar alias Karu, Panku Kumar. **Charges:** Leaking question papers, providing solvers, coordinating leaks.

**June 27 (Patna):** Manish Anand and Ashutosh Kumar arrested by CBI. **Charges:** Sheltering aspirants to memorize answer keys.

**June 28 (Hazaribag, Jharkhand):** Principal Ehsanul Haque, vice principal Imtiaz Alam, and journalist Jamaluddin arrested. **Charges:** Leaking question paper.

### RAJASTHAN

**May 5:** 22-year-old female student and Bhagwan Singh arrested for appearing as dummy candidates. Nukma Ram Godara (AIMS Jodhpur) allegedly appeared as dummy candidate in Bihar; currently on the run.

**May 8:** Student mediator and six students from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested by Delhi police.

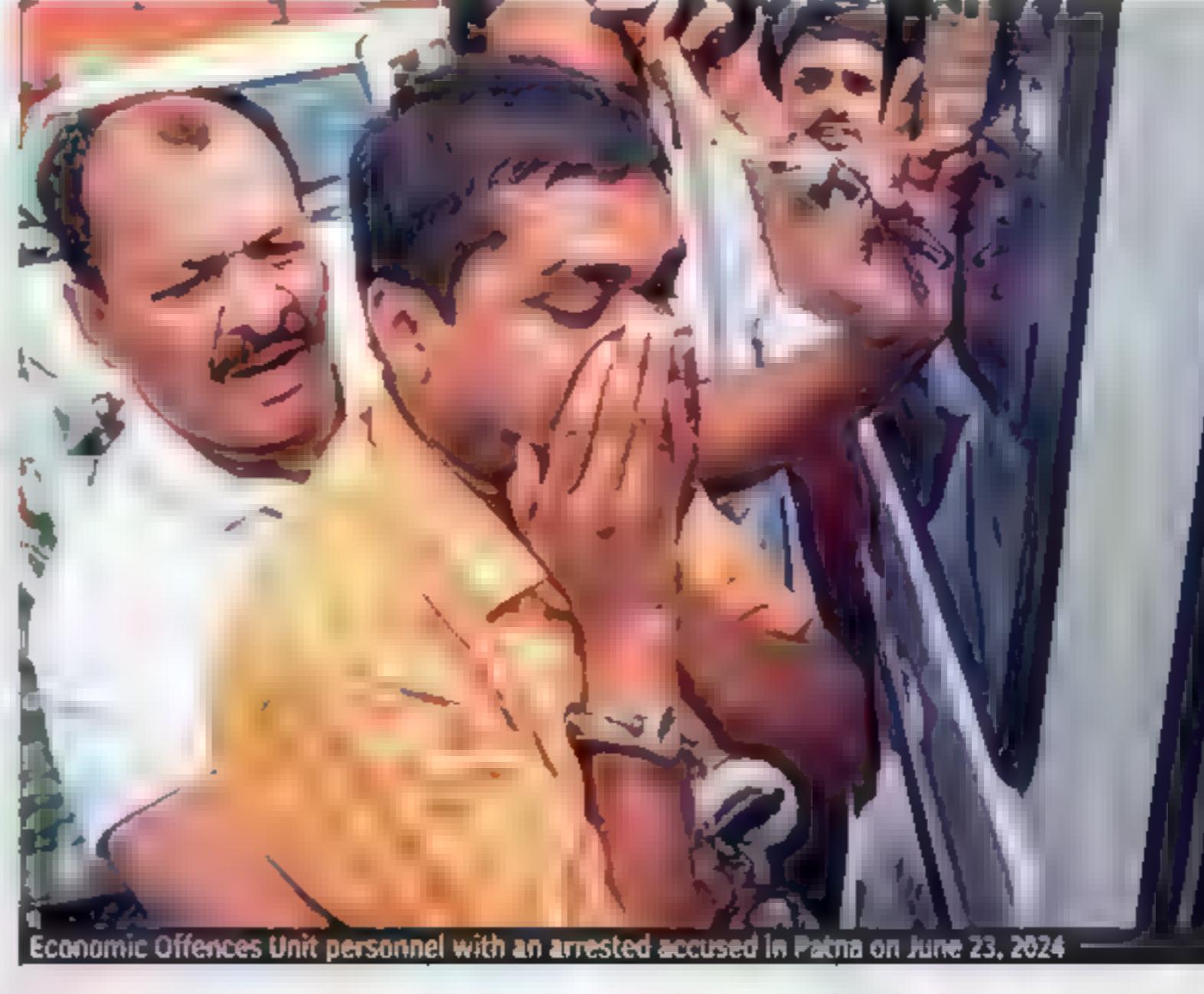
**May 13:** 21-year-old student from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested in Mumbai for liaising with the female dummy candidate.

**UTTARAKHAND**

**June 25 (Dehradun):** Gurgaon resident Gangadhar Gunde, originally from Marathwada, arrested while on the way to Mussoorie. **Charges:** Helping leak question papers in Bihar.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**June 23/25 (Latur and Solapur):** Headmaster Jateel Khan Pathan (34) in Latur district and Santosh



Economic Offences Unit personnel with an arrested accused in Patna on June 23, 2024.

**June 13:** 21-year-old student from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested in Mumbai for liaising with the female dummy candidate.

**GUJARAT**

**May 10:** Parshuram Roy, a Vadodara-based overseas education consultant, arrested. **Charges:** Referring students to Roy.

**May 19:** Vibhor Anand Singh, a Bihar native living in Vadodara, arrested. **Charges:** Referring students to Roy.

**May 20:** Parshotam Sharma, principal of Jay Jalaram School in Godhra, arrested. **Charges:** Ensuring school selection as exam centre; conspiring with Bhatt.

**May 25:** Tushar Bhatt, a teacher at Jalaram School in Godhra who lived in Vadodara, and Godhra-based

**Jadav (40), a teacher in Madia of Solapur, arrested. **Charges:** Identifying students, collecting hall ticket photos, collecting money, and passing info to an absconding ITI instructor.**

**May 26:** Parshuram Roy, a Vadodara-based overseas education consultant, arrested. **Charges:** Referring students to Roy.

**May 27:** Tushar Bhatt, a teacher at Jalaram School in Godhra who lived in Vadodara, and Godhra-based

**Arif Vahora, a suspended BJP functionary, arrested. **Charges:** Receiving money (Rs 7 lakh or more) for students, coordinating with other accused. Roy gave a list of students to Bhatt on WhatsApp.**

**May 28:** Tushar Bhatt, a teacher at Jalaram School in Godhra who lived in Vadodara, and Godhra-based

**Arif Vahora had allegedly paid Rs 7 lakh in cash to Bhatt and the money was recovered from the latter's car on May 5 when the copying bid was foiled by the district collector on a tip-off.**

**The remand order cited CBI's claims that some NEET students chose Jay Jalaram School as their test centre and Gujarati as their language despite being from other states. The modus operandi was to ask students to leave out questions they did not know blank so that they could be filled in later. In his remand order, the sessions judge called it "an exceptional case which prima facie has a deep-rooted conspiracy".**

**(With inputs from Patna and Ahmedabad)**

## U'khand NEET leak suspect held on way to Mussoorie

► Continued from P 1

The principal had blamed a local SBI branch, where the papers were stored, and a private courier company. Jamaluddin's family sources said he was friends with Haque for several years. Jamaluddin had organised a news conference recently for Haque to clear his stance on the leak, they said.

In Uttarakhand, the suspect arrested was identified as Gangadhar Gunde, aged around 40. A resident of Gurgaon, Gunde was intercepted Saturday on his way to Mussoorie by Dehradun police, who assisted CBI in the action.

"Gunde was, perhaps, in touch with the (NEET) leak accused in Bihar. We cannot divulge more details as the case is being handled by CBI's Delhi unit. Our role was only to secure his arrest and hand him over to our Delhi unit," a CBI officer in Dehradun said.

In Gujarat's Godhra, four people arrested and jailed in a NEET attempt-to-copy case were remanded in four-day CBI custody on Saturday.

Later, the agency took their custody from Godhra jail for questioning. The four are Purshotam Sharma, principal of Jal Jalaram School; Tushar Bhatt, a teacher in the same school. Arif Vahora, a suspended BJP functionary who referred students to Bhatt; and Vibhor Anand Singh of Bihar who roped in candidates from other states.

Vahora had allegedly paid Rs 7 lakh in cash to Bhatt and the money was recovered from the latter's car on May 5 when the copying bid was foiled by the district collector on a tip-off.

The remand order cited CBI's claims that some NEET students chose Jay Jalaram School as their test centre and Gujarati as their language despite being from other states. The modus operandi was to ask students to leave out questions they did not know blank so that they could be filled in later. In his remand order, the sessions judge called it "an exceptional case which prima facie has a deep-rooted conspiracy".

**(With inputs from Patna and Ahmedabad)**

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### RAJKOT

### PROPERTY

### PERSONAL

### CHANGE OF NAME

### LOST & FOUND

### TENDERS

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### TENDERS

# Debate over norms for ad self-certification reaches Parl

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Unease over the recent norms requiring self-certification of advertisements, which kicked in earlier this month, has reached Parliament. On Friday, Rajya Sabha member Kartikeya Sharma flagged the issue in the Upper House, expressing concern over the unintended consequences of the Supreme Court mandated initiative.

"Recent directive requiring self-declaration certificates for all advertisements (print, digital and electronic) aims to safeguard consumer interests and uphold advertisement integrity. However, this directive has introduced several operational challenges. There remains significant ambiguity, especially regarding non-claim advertisements published by small media houses for SMEs. These advertisers may struggle to comply due to the technical nature

**'Media houses face difficulties in preparing self-declaration certificates, registering on the portal, and troubleshooting issues, which could deter advertisers from using print media and affect revenue. Storage of self-declarations, weeding out, and handling emergency ads pose more challenges,' RS MP Kartikeya Sharma said**

of the process and limited resources," he said, talking about a new challenge for media in giving authentic information to people, which has become crucial amid a flood of disinformation.

He said handling of govt and public sector advertisements under this directive remained unclear. "Media houses face difficulties in preparing self-declaration certificates, registering on the portal, and troubleshooting issues, which could deter advertisers from using print media and affect revenue. Storage of self-declarations, weeding out, and handling emergency ads pose further challenges, particularly with the digital media ecosystem. Given the potential for legal challenges and technical issues with the portal, it is requested that the ministry delay the implementation of these guidelines until clear and objective procedures are established. It is also suggested that the implementation be initially limited to medical ads and that a wider consultation with stakeholders be conducted," said Sharma, a member from Haryana. SC's May 7 directive in a case involving IMA and Centre resulted in the prescription of a self-de-

claration certificate prior to broadcast any type of advertisement online or in print.

The concerns raised by the lawmaker have already been flagged by ad industry experts as well as the Indian Newspaper Society. In a representation to the I&B ministry, DNS has cited multiple problems, including those with the portal where self-declaration must be made. It had suggested that the existing mechanisms should be strengthened and sought that govt consider lifting the mandate to healthcare and medical ads.

As reported by TOI, several ad industry veterans have argued that implementation may not be easy and the entire process will only end up creating bureaucratic hurdles. Newspaper reports have suggested that getting the approvals on time has been a problem, impacting the release of topical advertisements.

**New terminal at Rajkot airport was to be ready by end of Feb**



**Coming from wrong side, car hits another on Maha eway, 7 killed**

Mohammed.Akhef  
@timesgroup.com

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:** Seven people died and four were seriously injured Friday in a head-on collision between two cars, one of them coming from the wrong side, on Samruddhi Mahamarg in Maharashtra's Jalna district.

Deceased include Fayyaz Mansuri, Faisal Mansuri and Altamash Mansuri, all from Mumbai, who were travelling in one car. The second car's driver, Sandeep Budhwant, and passengers Pradeep Misal, Vilas Kayande, and Ankut Chavhan also perished in the accident. The injured are Shakesel Mansuri, Altaf Mansuri, driver Rajesh Kumar and an unidentified man.

As per preliminary probe, the Mansuri family was heading to Mumbai from Nagpur. People in the other car, driven by Budhwant, halted at a fuel station. Instead of driving towards Mumbai and taking U-turn a few kilometres ahead, Budhwant decided to drive on the wrong side of the high-speed corridor. Mansuri family's driver, Rajesh Kumar, who was maintaining an estimat-

The portion of the canopy at the passenger pickup and drop area outside RAkot airport terminal that collapsed on Saturday

ed speed of 100kmph, did not expect any vehicle on the opposite direction. The impact of the accident flung one of the cars into the roadside barrier.

Patrol teams of the high way traffic police reached the spot and, with the help of nearby villagers, carried out rescue operation. High way traffic police inspector Ganesh Gir, in his report to the highway traffic headquarters, pointed out that wrong side driving was the reason for the accident.

Taluka police station in Jalna registered a case and initiated probe

**3 of family killed in crash, girl, 4, is lone survivor**

**Bhopal:** A four-year-old child is the only survivor of a freak accident that killed all her family members in MP's Satna on Saturday. A truck carrying iron rods overturned on their car, crushing her parents and elder brother to death. The girl was thrown into a safe pocket inside the mangled car & survived. **TNN**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that this boy (depicted in the photo) namely Tahid S/o Haneef R/o H. No. 1315, Bagchi Ram Chander Gali Sangat Rastan Paharganj, Delhi has been missing from the jurisdiction of PS Paharganj, New Delhi since 17.06.2024. In this regard, FIR No 309/2024 Dated 17.06.2024 has been lodged at PS Paharganj, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under-

**Sex: Male, Age: 7 yrs., Height: 3' 2", Complexion: Fair, Face Oval Built: Thin, Wearing: Red Shirt, Blue Jeans & Red Colour Sleepers in feet**

Any person is having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following address:-

**SHO**  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641  
Fax No.: 011-24368639

**PS: Paharganj, Delhi**  
Ph.: 011-23520787  
Mob.: 8750870427  
DP/8150/CD/2024

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**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA**

**Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under**  
**PMGSY & Other Scheme**

### e-Procurement Notice

**Bid Identification No. CCERWCSD Online - 03/2024-25**

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Road Road Agency invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY roads under Post Bid e-MARQUE module in the Districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur & Rayagada for 28 (Twenty Eight) number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 29.57 Cr including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement.dld: 03/07/2024

**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda & Superintending Engineer/Executive Engineers of the concerned Division, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

**Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement:** 18/07/2024 upto 5:00 PM For further details please log on to <http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in>

**Chief Engineer**  
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda  
DPR-25182/1/2024-25

## SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P. BHOPAL

**NO. SB / Store/2024-25 (211), Bhopal, Dated 24-06-2024**

### "ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M P, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://implenders.gov.in/nicgep/app/>

**S.No. Name of Item(s) Qty. Tender Fees (Rs.) EMD (Rs.) Tender Paid Online Through**

**mp tenders.gov.in** **Tender No.**

**1 Photo Identity Card Making System 02 3,000/- 1,50,000/- 1<sup>st</sup> Tender**

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mp tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app/>

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website <https://mp tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app/>

4. **Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
I	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: <a href="mailto:sec25-ab@mppolice.gov.in">sec25-ab@mppolice.gov.in</a>	07/07/2024 upto 1700 hrs.
II	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	02/07/2024 at 1100 hrs
III	Bid Submission Start Date	10/07/2024 at 1000 hrs
IV	Last date of online e-Tender submission	23/07/2024 upto 1600 hrs.
V	Bid will be opened on	24/07/2024 upto 1600 hrs.
VI	Demonstration from	31/07/2024 at 1100 hrs

**Sd/-**

**D.I.G. of Police (Intelligence)**

**M. P. Bhopal Tel. No. 0755-2443654**

## DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

**CORRIGENDUM No.3569, dtd. 29.06.2024**

The detailed Corrigendum of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No. DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt 23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, <http://www.desorissa.nic.in/> and Planning and Convergence Department, <https://pc.odisha.gov.in/>. Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to **06.07.2024 by 5.00 PM**.

**Sd/-**  
**DIRECTOR**  
DIPR 2100211/0005/24-25

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GENERATION DIVISION LJHP BARAMULLA

**(Email id : [xeneljh@gmail.com](mailto:xeneljh@gmail.com))**

**Gist of E-NIT No: GD/LJHP/ 02 of 2024-25**

**Dated :- 27-06-2024**

**(Tender ID: 2024\_SPDC\_251369\_1)**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, JAK Power Development Corporation, the office of Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP Baramulla invites e-bids valid for a period of 180 days from reputed and registered Electrical/Mechanical contractors/hydro Mechanical contractors having sufficient experience of the relevant job for following work as per drawing

S. No	Description	Qty.	Estimated cost (Lacs)	Amount of EMD	Cost of tender specification (Non refundable)	Time of completion
1.	SITC of 1 No High Pressure Air compressor (capacity 42kg/sec cm) with auxiliary panel control system and necessary pipe line/valves etc.	As per BOQ	15.47	2 % of the estimated cost	Rs. 500.00	60 Days

### Critical Dates

1. Date of issue of tender notice	27/06/2024
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents.	27/06/2024 to 18/07/2024
3. e-Bid submission (start) date & time	27/06/2024 at 1000 hrs
4. e-Bid submission (end) date & time	18/07/2024 at 1600 hrs
5. Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	20/07/2024 at 1400 hrs
6. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.

1. Complete bidding process will be on line. Price bid & as well as pre-qualification documents not to be submitted in physical form. However the same shall be obtained by the Department/JKPC management from the bidder who is declared as 1<sup>st</sup> opening of financial bid

2. The bidding documents consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of Terms & Conditions and other details can be seen at [www.jkpcdc.gov.in](http://www.jkpcdc.gov.in) or the official website of JKPC [www.jkpcdc.gov.in](http://www.jkpcdc.gov.in). The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online.

No GD /LJHP/529-34

Dated - 27/06/2024

DNP/SPDC-NB-649/24/25/06/2024

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
Generation Division LJHP  
Gantamulla Baramulla.

3. प्र. उर्दू अकादमी, सख्ती

(3. प्र. सरकार)

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We often hear of 'history' as war and peace, celebrating heroic deeds and assigning not so heroic motivations to others. Those histories are occasionally inspiring — and often disturbing for history is power, holding the ability to unfurl action in the present. It is time, wise reader, to engage with real history — the chronicles of Earth which comes from rock hard sources (literally, given the geological layers scientists mine). Today, climate history is essential knowledge. The United Nations estimates between 1980 to 1999, 4,212 natural disasters occurred worldwide, claiming 1.9 million lives and costing US\$ 1.63 trillion. Between 2000 to 2019, this rose to 7,348 disasters, affecting 4.2 billion and costing US\$ 2.97 trillion.

Climate history explains the difference. The field is a many-layered one. It encompasses Earth's physical history, from the emergence of its biosphere to the proliferation of its biodiversity. It records diverse elements — carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, etc. — which, in stability, ensure life. It also tracks how humanity is making this balance wobble. Climate-related events, doubling between 1999 to 2019, stem from anthropogenic imbalances — between 1850 to 2022, humans emitted several billion tonnes of 'greenhouse gases', a planet-heating bouquet of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, by burning fossil fuels, destroying forests and polluting ecosystems. Many of us can't easily see the link between human actions and environmental repercussions. Here, climate history shines a (renewable) light. By illuminating how Earth works, how it breathes and exhales, how its oceans and forests dance with currents and clouds, how its wetlands and peatlands store water and carbon and its species evolve, climate history warns us to stop rushing in the cosmos fears a heavy tread.

It also encourages. As Times Evoke's global experts emphasise, climate history helps us prepare for today's challenges. With extreme weather, the world needs new paradigms of building, growing and being. Climate history offers panaceas of resilience. Also, it is part of your own extraordinary tale you live on the universe's only known home to life. You arrived here, a mix of stardust and person, after 14 billion years. You hold journeys and prophesies in your hands — don't overlook that in the maze of everyday trials, trials and pratfalls. Join Times Evoke in exploring climate history — and your life.

# 'Climate history warns us to limit warming to 2°C — humans may not be able to adapt beyond that'

**Dagomar Degroot** is associate professor of history at Georgetown University. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at Times Evoke, he discusses archives of climate collapse — and resilience.

## What is the core of your research?

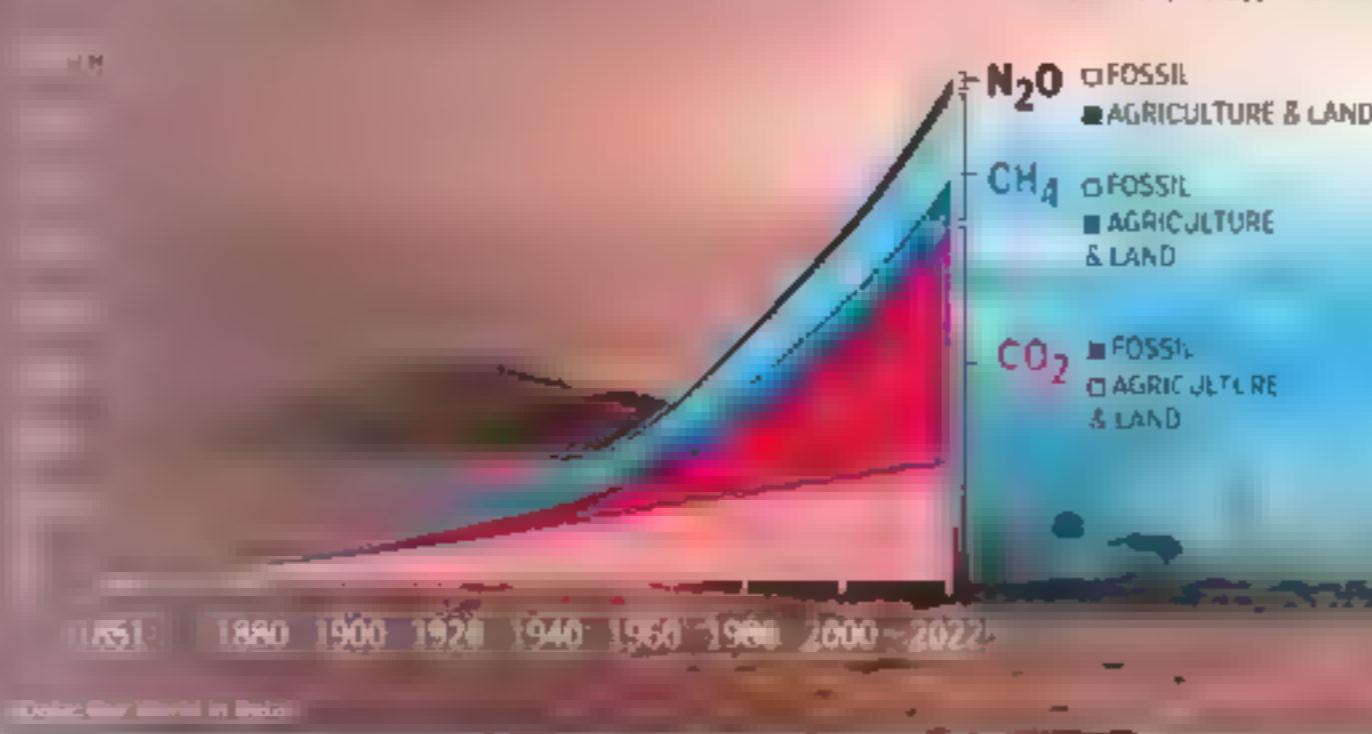
■ I'm an environmental historian. I work on identifying how climate changed in the past, often by collaborating with scientists and scholars from related disciplines, and figure out how such climate change influenced diverse populations. Some collapsed while others managed to survive, even thrive. My work explores this and sees if these findings can inform climate policy now.

## What sources are used in such history?

■ For identifying past climate changes, I work with scientists in part. They use 'the archives of nature', aspects of the natural world that record the influence of earlier climatic variations. The rings of trees are an example — these correspond to how much a tree has grown. Bits of these rings could be thicker or thinner, depending on weather. You can use their width to figure out how the weather changed over a tree's lifetime. Ice cores also accumulate gradually as layers, akin to tree rings. There's some melting at the poles in summer, causing these layers. By measuring different isotopes in the layers, you gain a sense of the temperature of the whole planet because heavier isotopes tend to evaporate more when Earth is warmer and then precipitate into ice sheets.

Researchers like me also use 'the archives of society'. These can be direct reports of weather. Educated people would often keep weather diaries while officers on ships would record changes in wind direction and velocity. Many texts describe

## HOW WE GOT HERE: GLOBAL WARMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY GAS & SOURCE



The global mean surface temperature change because of the cumulative emissions of three gases: Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) & nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

Photos: Getty Images

## IN A WARMING WORLD

### When did it become clear humans were impacting climatic processes?

■ Humans have been altering the atmosphere for thousands of years, changing landscapes, wiping out megafauna and developing agriculture.

Potentially bigger changes came with the 15th century genocide in the western hemisphere when European colonisers began killing millions of indigenous people, perhaps so many that previous agricultural and forest management regimes were no longer viable on a scale which could allow the regrowth of tropical forests that pull carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) out of the atmosphere.

Large-scale pollution of the atmosphere came with industrialisation and the use of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas releasing vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and other greenhouse gases — the weight of all the greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere over the last 150 years is estimated about 2 trillion tonnes. That outweighs the

weight of all organisms on Earth plus everything we have built. In the mid-1890s, Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, wrote about how industrialisation was releasing warming gases into the atmosphere which would cause a 'benign' heating of Earth. By the 1900s, Guy Callendar, an English engineer, figured out Earth was already warming due to CO<sub>2</sub>. The emergence of a climate consensus between a vast majority of scientists and experts, on the links between a warming world and human emissions, came in the 1970s-1980s.

### Why do you posit the Dutch flourished under climate change?

■ Some of my work focuses on the Dutch but they were not an exception. I've been working with scholars all over the world to identify such resilience globally. Humans endured climatic changes even before industrialisation. Our species evolved in the Pleistocene epoch. This was distinguished by spectacular climate changes, a vast transition between glacial conditions, when Earth was about 7°C colder than now, and interglacial conditions when it was as warm as now. There was a huge oscillation with short-term instability but humans adapted.

Then, the Holocene enabled agriculture 11,700 years ago. The global climate became relatively stable but even here, there were profound regional changes, the most important being the drying-up of the Sahara, a grassland at the Holocene's start, becoming

### ARCHIVES: Cherry blossoms tell tales

in sieges while the Dutch discovered sailing. They relied on wind power while other states were more dependent on



Fossil Fury: Burning coal, oil and gas has released once-sequestered carbon

## SEEING THE SIGNS

■ An awareness of climate existed in India before modern climatological science. In the 2nd century BCE, Chanakya, Chandragupta Maurya's eminent minister, wrote the *Arthashastra*, which recognised how rain worked and impacted stability. He centralised water management and curbed profligacy, pricing water through labour or crops, taxing the wealthy more. He also gave **tax breaks to communities managing water tanks** — a worthy idea today.



■ 18th century palaeontologist Georges Cuvier linked organismal biology to Earth's epochs. Organising species into 'branches' as vertebrates, articulata (arthropods), mollusca (soft invertebrates) and radiata (aquatic animals), and studying the mammoth-like *mastodon*, Cuvier proved extinction — animals vanishing forever due to climatic instability.



■ Paul Crutzen discovered certain substances damaged Earth's ozone layer — 1987's Montreal Protocol, to phase these out, is due to him. In 2000, the Nobel Laureate outlined how human-induced changes had started a new climatic epoch on Earth — the *Anthropocene*.



RESEARCH: IMD, BBC Science Focus Magazine, NASA  
farming, made harder by the Little Ice Age. But wind currents didn't change then, which powered the Dutch

Can climate history empower people today? ■ The world is currently headed for warming of about 3°C by the end of this century. This is extremely dangerous. Many collapses from the Mayans to the Vikings, occurred when the climate wasn't changing as much. Resilience might not be readily available because there are eight billion humans on the planet now. We must limit warming to 2°C because there is a possibility we can't adapt beyond that. We've recently seen tragic losses of life due to heatwaves in India. Societies which survived climate change were very proactive — climate history can tell a hopeful story but only if we learn its lessons.

■ The ostrich evolved 23 million years ago as rainfall reduced and dry savannas emerged across Africa. While being flightless, ostriches have long legs and powerful feet — they cover five metres in one stride and run at 70 km per hour, despite being 8 feet tall and 159 kg. Armed with a 10-cm-sharp claw, the peaceful-looking ostrich can also kick — to kill — as many savanna predators, from lions to hyenas, discovered over aeons.



RESEARCH: Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, American Museum of Natural History  
Dear Times Evoke,  
As an MSc Microbiology student, I find TE perpetually fascinating. The piece on elephants (15th June) was particularly enlightening: learning that they communicate using each other's names was both astonishing and endearing. Thank you, TE, for always presenting such fresh and enlightening stories.

— Shripa Gautam, Lucknow

I'm in school and I love Times Evoke! I was so delighted to read about elephants. It was the first time I got to know that humans are not the only intelligent beings on Earth, elephants are too! Elephants give their own names — just like we humans do! Thank you so much for such wonderful information, TE.

— Priyanka Roy, Siliguri

I was amazed to learn elephants use unique vocalisations to 'name' each other. This incredible discovery by George Wittemyer, unravelled through machine learning, showcases their remarkable intelligence. I'm very grateful to TE for deepening our understanding of nature.

— Soumyadeep Dutta, Kolkata

Thanks, TE, for informing us how elephants have languages. This fascinating article looked exquisite and I agree with George Wittemyer that animal intelligence is highly underrated by humans. This article made me realise how there's so much more to know in life!

— Vijayalakshmi Thiyagarajan, Mumbai

Thank you for your superb articles, TE! I was awestruck reading about elephant vocalisations! I eagerly await such wonderful TE articles.

— Ayaan Abbas, Barabanki

It was simply amazing to read about elephants' naming patterns. With decades of research, George Wittemyer and his team have achieved a great scientific breakthrough. Kudos to them and TE for such wonderful work!

— Saarabh Thakur, Mysuru

Share your thoughts at: timesevoke@timesgroup.com  
Read Times Evoke online at: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/  
India/times-evoke

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

THEY'VE GOT STORIES TO TELL

■ It's not just humans — other species have also seen Earth changing. Horses evolved 55 million years ago when the dog-sized *Hyracotherium* roamed forests covering North America. Initially, horses were small-sized forest browsers. But changing climates and new grasslands saw species evolve 20 million years ago. While the Caspian horse emerged in 3000 BCE, an intriguing breed is the *Akhal-Teke* — the 'golden horse' — which originated in Turkmenistan 3,000 years ago, famed for its shimmering coat

■ Crabs are tough survivors of Earth's climatic swings — the horseshoe crab, with its spiny tail, split from its arachnid kin 480 million years ago. As ice gave way to marsh, crabs developed legs to walk over land and shields against predators — they survived continents separating and dinosaurs perishing and 250 million years ago, diverse species started developing legs for paddling, digging under sediments and even climbing trees.

■ The ostrich evolved 23 million years ago as rainfall reduced and dry savannas emerged across Africa. While being flightless, ostriches have long legs and powerful feet — they cover five metres in one stride and run at 70 km per hour, despite being 8 feet tall and 159 kg. Armed with a 10-cm-sharp claw, the peaceful-looking ostrich can also kick — to kill — as many savanna predators, from lions to hyenas, discovered over aeons.

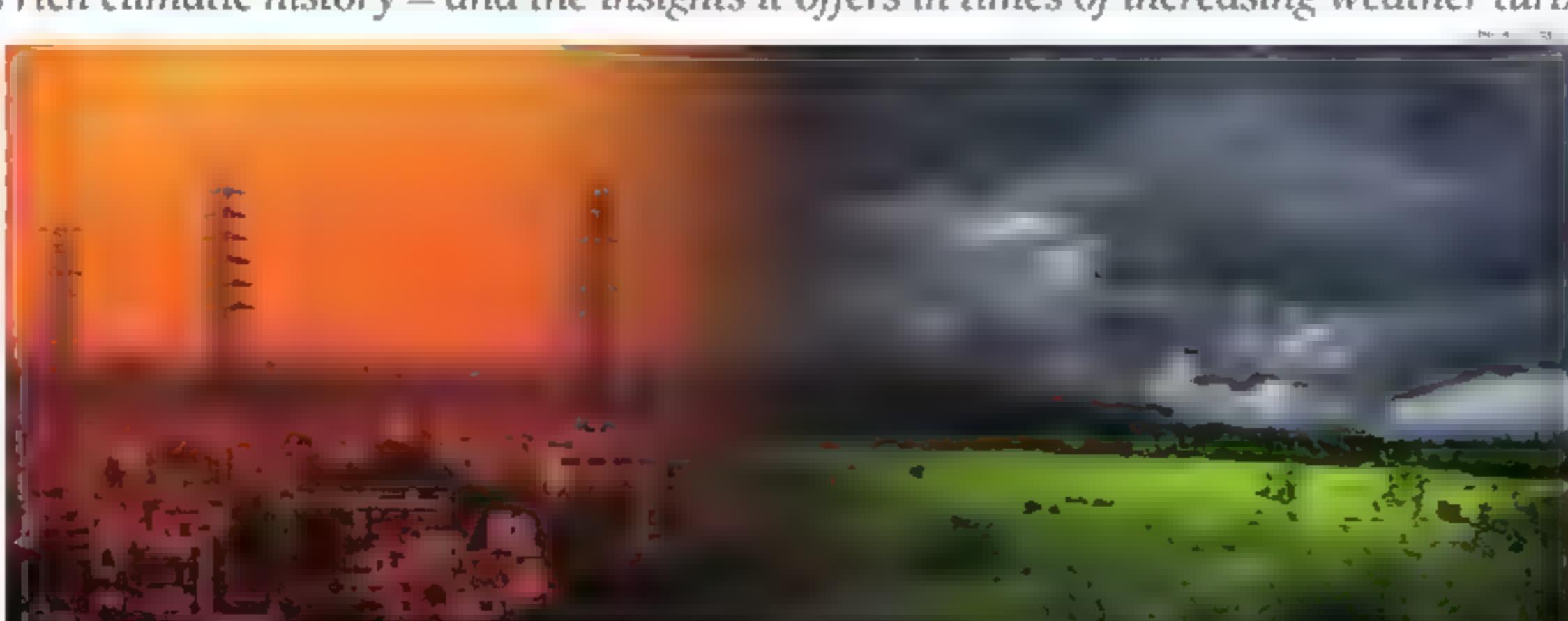
RESEARCH: Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, American Museum of Natural History

# 'We must draw from India's climate history. This respected topography, hydrology and nature as capital'

**Mahesh Rangarajan** is professor of history and environmental studies at Ashoka University. Speaking to Times Evoke, he discusses India's rich climatic history — and the insights it offers in times of increasing weather turbulence.

**S**everal parts of India have swung from extraordinary heatwaves to extreme rainfall in a matter of days just one day ago, Delhi, which was reeling under severe heat, experienced the maximum daily rainfall seen in June in 88 years. This huge volume of water fell over a few hours, flooding the capital, leaving its roads waterlogged and traffic submerged. India has seen weather swings before — but today, the rate of stochasticity or unpredictable, sudden changes has increased. Some of this is due to global warming and the atmospheric concentrations of heating emissions. But some comes from self-inflicted wounds, which also reflect a lack of awareness of India's rich climate history.

India has a tropical system and a monsoon regime, with a clearly defined wet and dry period. Today the dry period is growing exceptionally parched and extremely hot, testing the ability of vertebrates to survive. The flipside is very wet periods of intense rain in short durations. Such tumult, impacting people's lives, well-being and resources, reemphasises the importance of climate history. Any subject of the past is seen through the lens of the present. In the 20th century, after World Wars I and II in particular, many fields of study emerged researching how to create conditions for international peace and prevent nuclear war. Today studies look at how to achieve peace with nature. Climate history explores how human civilisations over



**JUST LIKE THAT:** Several regions of India recently endured a blistering heatwave which claimed lives and challenged infrastructure — in a matter of days though, many parts were experiencing intense rains and flooding which broke historical records

time understood the nature of the biosphere — the thin skin of blue-green in which all life exists.

Humanity has relied on climatic stability for thousands of years, including in the recent Holocene, characterised by regular atmospheric, weather and moisture conditions. Such

stability enabled the thriving of societies. Many of these conditions are changing now. Societies across Asia and Africa experience the monsoon earlier than it would normally occur, with its waters enriching Earth accordingly. The stability of these dates shaped much of Indian civilisation — consider how rain-regulated our agricultural cycles are and how the availability of water helped create cities, which could depend on a flourishing countryside. As several of these conditions are transformed, we can expect turbulence in what remains a largely agrarian country. Already, the times of sowing and ripening for crops like wheat are changing, influenced by altering winters and transformed rains. India has multiple agro-climatic zones which grow diverse crops — agriculturalists every where will face climate challenges now.

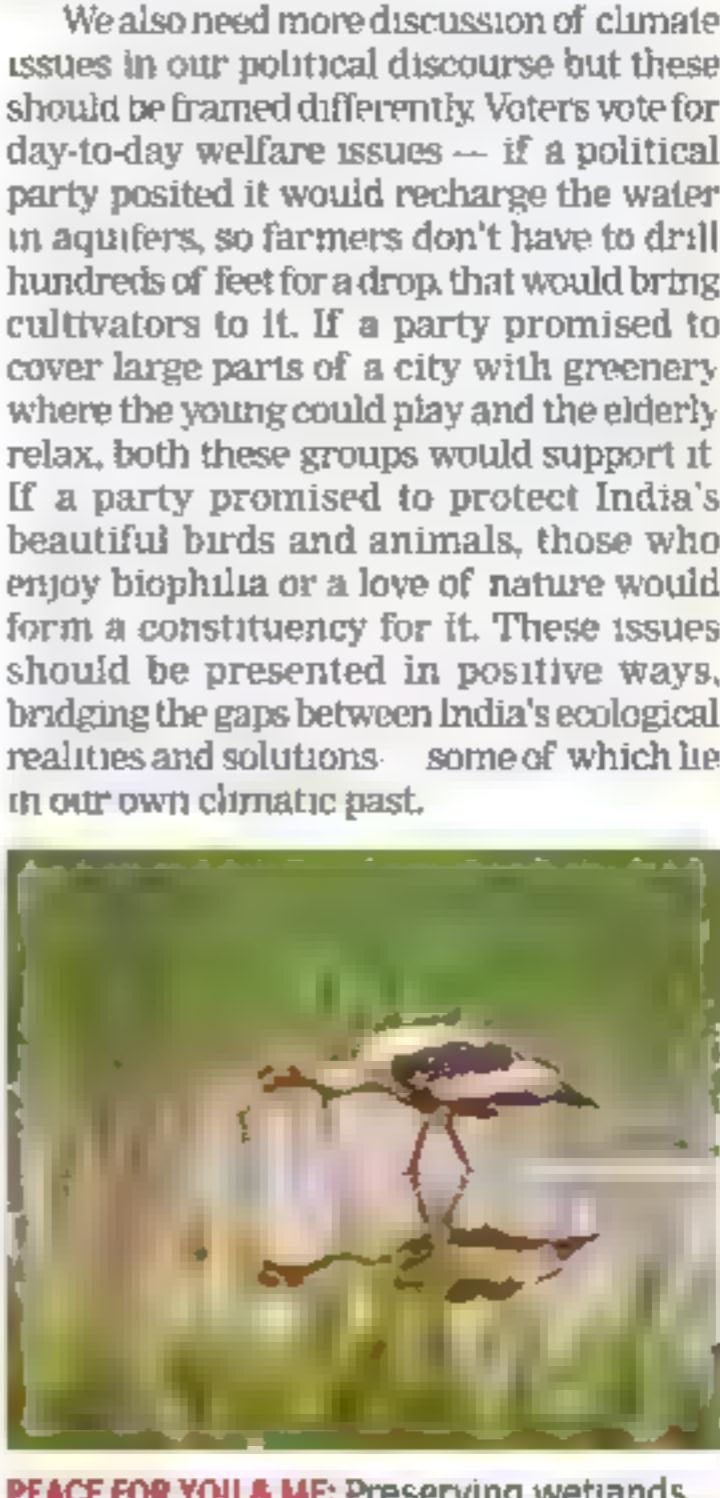
Interestingly, climate history spotlights wetlands as a buffer between heat wave and rain. It is noteworthy that Delhi's recent rain and flooding were preceded by a period of harsh water scarcity. To prevent this, we need to preserve wetlands from being taken over for construction because these are crucial for absorbing rain and renewing aquifers. The book 'Shades of Blue', by Harini Nagendra and

Seema Mundoli, analyses issues of water across diverse Indian cities, each of which have their own ecological stories — yet, one common factor binds these locations: from Guwahati to Mumbai and Delhi. They have all been draining their wetlands, causing drought vulnerability in summer and floods in the rains. The flooding in Delhi impacted areas urbanised in the last few years where earlier, rivulets flowed or old stream beds existed. In many places, housing and infrastructure have been built on low-lying areas while channels leading to the Yamuna have been blocked. We need to bring back a sense of respect for topography and local hydrology in what we build — and leave alone.

History is learning of the past to be enlightened for the present. There were long periods of climatic instability in the past too — interestingly, India in the 17th century and Tokugawa Japan coped better than many societies in Europe. One reason was India's elites valued nature. Before the arrival of the British, Indian rulers often gave people interest-free loans to build check dams or wells. The Vijayanagara empire, as Kathleen Morrison's research shows, provided for long dry periods. There could even be a decade when the monsoon fell short but populations adapted. They used crops which needed less water, today's push for millets is apt — and learnt



**UNCERTAIN HARVESTS:** Rain-dependent Indian agriculture faces climate change



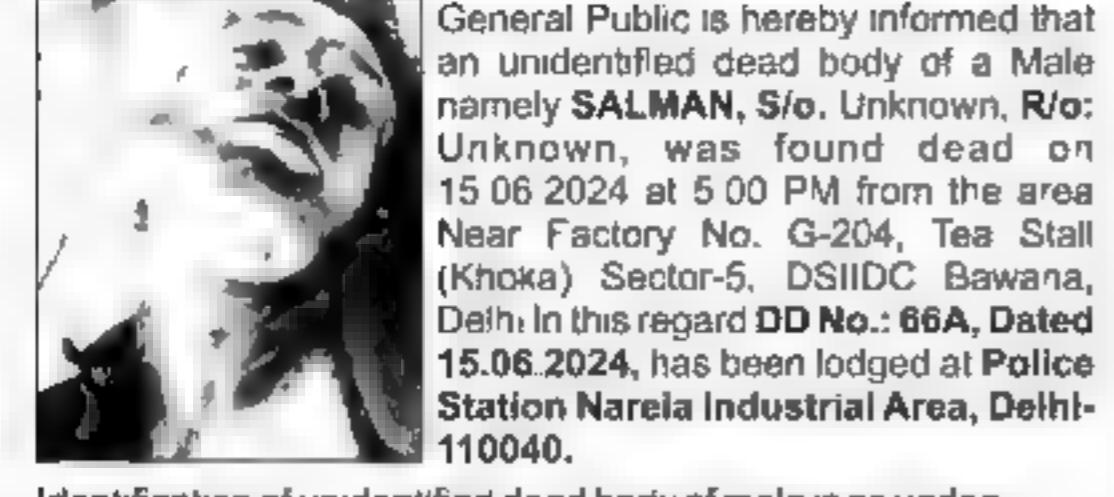
**PEACE FOR YOU & ME:** Preserving wetlands is a boon for humans and other species

**RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED**  
(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.)  
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)  
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): L40104RJ2015SGCD4873B  
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan Jampatti, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur - 302005  
Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUCC Building, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur - 302005  
E-mail: [RJVN@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:RJVN@rajasthan.gov.in), Website: [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RJVN/](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RJVN/)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Online bids are invited to procure upto 2000 MW power from 15th July 2024 to 28th February 2025 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-25/RU/V/T/2024-25. May visit website [www.mstcommerce.com](http://www.mstcommerce.com) [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rjvn/](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rjvn/) for further details.

**RUVITL/PR. 74 (2024)**  
Raj.Samvid/C/24/1420

**Superintending Engineer**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a Male namely **Salman**, S/o. Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead on 15.06.2024 at 5.00 PM from the area Near Factory No. G-204, Tea Stall (Khoka) Sector-5, DSIIDC Bawana, Delhi. In this regard DD No.: 66A, Dated 15.06.2024, has been lodged at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi-110040.

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under  
Sex: Male, Age: About 35 years, Complexion: Shallow Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Wearing: Maroon Colour Shirt & Blue Pant. The dead body of deceased preserved from 15.06.2024 in BJRM Hospital, Jahangirpuri, Delhi Mortuary for identification. If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned

**SHO**  
P.S. Narela Industrial Area,  
Delhi-110040  
Ph.: 9810940078  
DP/8387/ON/2024

**Government of Maharashtra**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION HINGOLI**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO 08 YEAR 2024-2025**  
E-Tenders for S X (06) works in B-1/B-2 SBD form is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Hingoli. Phone No 02456 220612 from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Govt of Maharashtra for the improvement roads yearly maintenance of roads /repairs of building /construction of new buildings/Bridge works in Dist Hingoli.

The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website [www.mahapwd.gov.in](http://www.mahapwd.gov.in) / <https://mahaetenders.gov.in/>

**Sd/-**  
Executive Engineer,  
Public Works Division, Hingoli  
DGIPR/2024-2025/514

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE NO 02/2024  
Date: 28.06.2024

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
By CSTE GS/North Central Railway Agra act reg for and on behalf of the President of India issues "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering for the following work)

**E-Tender No.: AGRA-ST-GS-2024-03** Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 7,15,24,067.65  
Name of work: B&T work in connection w/ the Sp. line of 41 km long block section, (Fatehabad-Bah) by converting BHADRALLI D class station into B class station

Tender closing date: 23.07.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Bidders will be able to submit their original or revised bids through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 16:00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manus offer received shall be ignored. 113/24 (ADM)

**North central railway** [www.nor.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nor.indianrailways.gov.in) @norcentralrailway X @CRPRNCR

**OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI (Transport Cell)**  
Near Katchery Chowk Ranchi 834461 Ph. No. - (0651-2213674/2210495)

Letter No: 304/Trans Date : 28-06-2024  
**CORRIGENDUM**

Please refer to NIT No.270/Trans Dated:-07-06-2024 (P.R. No. – 325554) Request for Proposal for Selection of Fare Collection Agency and Service Provider for Implementation of Automatic Fare Collection System for city Bus service for RMC (5<sup>th</sup> Call) the following amendment has been made

Sl. No.	Amendments Made by RMC
1	Last date of bid submission 08-07-2024 05:00 PM
2	Opening date of technical bid 09-07-2024, 05:00 PM

For details please visit [jarkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in)  
Other terms and condition will remain same as per the RFP.

Sd/-  
Administrator,  
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi.

PR NO 328142 Ranchi Municipal Corporation/24-251 D

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

See Section U/8 & 83 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Anas S/o Kasim R/o C-55/23, Gall No. 7, New Kashmiri Building Chauhan Banger, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 78/2021 U/s 336/109/506/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act, PS Jafraab, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Anas cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Anas has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anas of case FIR No. 78/2021 U/s 336/109/506/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act, PS. Jafraab, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 03.08.2024.

By Order  
Ms. Aayushi Saxena  
Metropolitan Magistrate-05  
Room No. 07, Shahdara District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) (1) Mahadevi W/o Bheem Singh (2) Ram Prakash Sharma S/o Bheem Singh (3) Vishnu Pachori S/o Bheem Singh (4) Umar @ Aman S/o Ram Prakash Sharma R/o Village Mehndora, Tehsil Inglash, Distt. Aligarh, U P has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 652/15 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC, PS Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) (1) Mahadevi (2) Ram Prakash Sharma (3) Vishnu Pachori (4) Umar @ Aman can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) (1) Mahadevi (2) Ram Prakash Sharma (3) Vishnu Pachori (4) Umar @ Aman of case FIR No. 652/15 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC, PS Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 29.07.2024. By Order

Preeti Rajoriya  
Mahua Courts-02, Room No. 18  
(Court Matter)

Mahua Courts-02, Room No. 18  
Rohini District Courts, Delhi

DP/8326/RD/2024

“Save Electricity for Nation”

प्रधानमंत्री स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय औरैया चिकित्सा शिक्षकों के हेतु विज्ञप्ति

स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय औरैया के विभिन्न संकायों में नियमित चिकित्सा शिक्षकों के रित्यां पर्याप्त नियुक्त हेतु प्राचीन संस्था- AURAIYA/ ADVT/2024/25/409 दिनांक- 14.06.2024 द्वारा वित्ती प्रकाशित की गयी थी, प्रकाशित वित्ती की अन्तिम तिथि 30.06.2024 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक- 08.07.2024 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। विस्तृत सूचना एवं वित्ती पर्याप्त का विवरण स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय औरैया की वेबसाइट- [www.aasmca.in](http://www.aasmca.in) से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय औरैया

नियमित वित्ती की अन्तिम तिथि 30.06.2024 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक- 08.07.2024 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। विस्तृत सूचना एवं वित्ती पर्याप्त का विवरण स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय औरैया की वेबसाइट- [www.aasmca.in](http://www.aasmca.in) से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

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प्रधानमंत्री स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्याल

## No NEET answer, but time to make merit matter again



CHETAN BHAGAT

It's fair to say that NEET, the nation al-level medical entrance exam, has become a mess. Allegations of paper leaks, mismanagement of centres, unfair marking schemes, mathematically improbable result patterns abound. This is not only stressful to the millions who took the exam, but to those planning to take it in the coming years.

Even with no irregularity, Indian entrance exams are already intensely stressful. Long after one has stopped being a student, the recurrent nightmare is usually to do with an exam. NEET is extremely competitive. Some 23 lakh students took NEET-UG this year, aiming to get one of the approximately 50,000 seats in government medical colleges. This makes it a rejection rate of 97.8%. There are some more seats for private medical colleges, but they are a) not as prestigious and b) are expensive to study in, sometimes costing crores (compared to a few lakhs for government ones). Even including private colleges total medical seats cap out at a little over 1.00,000.

The big fight is, however, for government seats, or to obtain one of the top 50,000 ranks. Imagine the value of obtaining this top rank in NEET. Ignore all morals, merit, hard work. Let's just go into pure greedy, shameless, crony-capitalist mode. What if you could auction and sell those top ranks? How much do you think they would sell for? You save in crores given the lower fee at government colleges. There's higher prestige. You avoid the stress and hard work of preparation and save the coaching fee as well. Perhaps these top ranks could be sold off, in a greedy pure capitalist world, for Rs 3 crore each. So, for the top 50,000 ranks, we are talking about a potential Rs 1,50,000-crore revenue opportunity annually. If we were ready to sell our souls. This is why there is a massive incentive for things to go wrong. It's the same story with other entrance exams — the money to be made in rigging them is massive. In a nation that has rarely prioritised merit and ethics, is it really surprising that a mini industry has come up to make money off these tests?

When did we care about fairness, integrity and merit anyway? It isn't how our politics works which is almost always about identity — some mix of religion, caste, regionalism and nationalism. So why care now? Why bother with silly things like merit? Why not sell everything? If we can have crony capitalism, where certain corporates who pay up have an advantage, why not let rich families buy seats for their kids?

But it bothers us, doesn't it? It makes us sick actu-



TESTING TIME: Exams like NEET give young people an opportunity to jump class so leaks feel like a betrayal

ally. Mass level cheating in our few, extremely difficult but supposedly honest exams shakes us to the core. It is not just about students. It is about all of us, who suddenly feel nothing is sacrosanct, nobody can be trusted and, finally, it is only power and money that talks. Exams like NEET, JEE, UPSC are the only outlets in our country for young people to jump class. For someone to get a better life of dignity for themselves and their parents. They are extremely hard, but at least carry hope in a country with few avenues to rise.

Hopefully, this NEET fiasco wakes us up. It makes us realise that values such as integrity, honesty, merit, and respect for hard work are values that need to be guarded. Humans are flawed. If there is massive opportunity to rig and cheat, some people in the system will do so. But we as citizens must stay vigilant. Students are the victims here but here's a bit of feedback for them. They may not like to hear this, but over the last few years, the average Indian student has disconnected from politics. Lost in their Insta reels, YouTube videos, memes, OTT series and video games, they say, 'Who cares, politics doesn't affect me. Let boring oldies do it.' No, you must care. For if you don't, you will suffer the most. How did NEET finally attract national attention? When enough students finally kicked up a fuss. Stay engaged in your democracy. Don't check out. Don't think voting every five years and ignoring national issues otherwise is enough. Your regular vigilance is needed to keep everyone accountable.

For this specific NEET situation, all problems lead to National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts these high stakes exams without good systems in place. With lakhs of crores in malpractice possible, we deserve a more foolproof organisation. For exams like NEET, centres must be reputable and secure. If enough good centres are not available, exams can be phase-wise, like elections. For this, multiple question papers can be set of equal difficulty and scores normalised. Only a tight circle should be aware of which exact paper will be used on exam day. Conducting an exam with integrity is possible but it depends on those conducting it. Leaking papers is essentially selling of seats. It is selling Indian merit, honesty and hard work. It is selling India's soul. We can't let that happen. ■

### RIGHT & WRONG

#### SWAPAN DASGUPTA

There was an eerie predictability about the disruptions and manufactured controversies that greeted the brief, inaugural session of the Lok Sabha last week. Inspired by what it perceived was its great success in denying the ruling BJP an outright majority on its own, opposition can now be expected to reduce Parliament to a boisterous shambles. The underlying belief is that agitational politics both inside and outside Parliament will expose the Narendra Modi government's fragility and make governance difficult. Since BJP had crafted its election plank on the promise of providing a smooth ride to its Viksit Bharat destination, opposition now believes it is positioned to throw a spanner in the works, at least at frequent inter-

vals over the next five years.

On his part, Prime Minister Modi has entered his third term with a business-as-usual approach.

The selection of senior ministers suggests that continuity will be the hallmark of the government.

The restlessness apparent in different layers of BJP, not to mention the wider Sangh Parivar,

at the reduction of the government's majority and the big losses in UP, Maharashtra and West Bengal, has not found expression in the functioning of the government. Whether this insouciance is strategy or merely an interim decoy pending a more considered assessment of the outcome is not known. However, govt strategists need to consider the mismatch between the unbridled optimism of stock markets and a mood of tentativeness among people over the future.

No doubt some of the question marks have

arisen out of the episodic anger over the NEET

turmoil. There are suggestions that the Agniveer

issue is also on a slow burning fuse. There will

be other such hiccups that the govt will have to confront in the future. What matters is whether its sincerity of purpose is accepted by the public.

However, BJP's loss of seats has also been accompanied by a media-inspired resurrection of tensions involving the RSS, a facet of public life that had been eased out of the political imagination after Modi's 2014 victory. Political speculation along such lines tends invariably to be salacious and these, in turn, gnaw away at the moral integrity of a govt. The Modi govt has so far made its mark on the strength of its achievements in governance and on the development front. People's perception has been shaped by its energy and record of delivery. Modi hasn't been distracted by the political shenanigans that prime ministers from P V Narasimha Rao to Manmohan Singh had to expend their energies on. It is in his own interest to ensure that the fears of "coalition alchima" turn out to be false scares.

India, it would seem, has unexpectedly been

confronted by two different approaches to politics. Quite unwittingly, Rahul Gandhi detected the conflicting impulses in his first speech as Leader of Opposition. In welcoming the Speaker, he said, "Speaker sir, the question is not how efficiently the House is run, the question is how much of India's voice is allowed to be heard in this House. Speaker sir, so the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea."

While wilfully overstating and mocking the disciplinary compulsions of a Speaker, he astutely identified a unique facet of the Modi govt: its use of efficiency as the yardstick of good governance and politics. From directing govt employees to attend office punctually, using technology to stop the proverbial transmission losses of government funds, to holding periodic audits of ministerial and departmental performance, Modi's political priorities are implicitly non-discursive. He seems to loathe yesterday's meandering pravachans.

This is in marked contrast to the political imagination of the INDIA combination that (at least for the moment) wants elaborate parliamentary deliberations to set the tone of politics. There is a view of liberalism that celebrates decision-making which flows from the laboured aggregation of conflicting philosophies — a confederal system where even the views of CPI (ML-Liberation) and AIMIM are given disproportionate weightage. This approach is at best akin to taking the scenic route or, more likely, travelling by the mail train that stops at every station. What matters is the journey, never the destination.

Maybe there are countries where non-urgency and pleasurable democracy are ideals. But does it suit the imperatives of an India where the real challenge is to bring all parts of a vast and diverse country into the 21st century, without losing our sense of who we are? It is shaping up to be a battle between the cacophony of liberal democracy and the chorals of national democracy. ■

## Rahul versus Modi: LS session reveals two different approaches to politics

### RIGHT & WRONG

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## Buy British, huh? Mahatma Gandhi is having the last laugh

### BY INVITATION

#### SANDIP ROY

In 1921, Gandhi took a pledge to boycott foreign goods by burning 1,50,000 pieces of English cloth in Bombay. The swadeshi movement had started earlier after the Partition of Bengal in 1905 with calls to boycott Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt. But now it truly captured the imagination of the Indian public. Gandhi called it the soul of the dream of swaraj.

Almost 100 years later, a British prime minister of Indian origin has given the call for swadeshi in London in the hope that he too will capture the imagination of his public as Britain heads into an election next week. In a tweet Rishi Sunak exhorted his fellow countrymen to "Buy British", saying, "We shouldn't be reliant on foreign food."

An X user's post saying, "Babe wake up the Brits are starting a Swadeshi movement," promptly went viral. Gandhi, the man Britain's great hero Winston Churchill described as a "sedulous half naked fakir", would have been amused that a British PM seems to be wanting to take a page out of his playbook.

Sunak's aim was to appeal to national pride and promote self-reliance. His opponents pointed fingers at the role his own party has played in the decline of British agriculture as well as the impact of Brexit on food supply. A London School of Economics study said British households paid 7 billion pounds since Brexit to cover the cost of trade barriers on food imports from the European Union. Controversial trade deals with Australia and New Zealand have flooded British markets with cheap beef from Down Under. But, for Indians, this was a juicy moment to give the Brits a history lesson.

When Indians launched the swadeshi movement in 1905, thousands were arrested and sent to jail. Colleges whose students had been part of the movement found their grants and scholarships cancelled. Sunak's clarion call, instead of igniting a similar fervour, has set off a meme fest and social media hilarity.

One X user said it was a great idea, but could Sunak direct them to the nearest British tea garden. Also, the 'Buy British' slogan rings a little hollow in a country where curry houses are as



SWADESHI PITCH: Sunak has ignored the stores of both the country he leads, and the country his ancestors came from

ubiquitous as pubs and chicken tikka masala is the unofficial national dish. But there was a more sobering message as well. Britain once boasted that the sun never set on the British Empire. Even after Independence many Indians remained fascinated by London and knew more about British history than their own. But now, it has truly been cut to size. The emperor has no clothes (and no spices of its own either).

While the Indian leaders' call for swadeshi actually made an impact, Sunak's plea just had people rolling on the floor in laughter as some asked for a "squeeze of British lemon" and a "drizzle of British olive oil" and "those British spices." In the comedy series 'Goodness Gracious Me', the characters once go out for an English 'which' meant ordering 12 bread rolls and the "bluestest thing on the menu." "Goodness Gracious Me" was a spoof on English culture by British-Asian comedians but now Sunak himself has become the joke. He is pretty much the "bluestest thing on the menu."

It was actually also an unwitting reminder of how a very small country had colonised so much of the world and cornered so much of its resources for its own gain for so long. The mention of "British spices" is particularly pointed because it was in the name of spices that European colonisers ravaged many parts of the world. That is why Amitabh Bachchan used nutmeg as a way to recount a larger story about colonialism and capitalism all leading us towards climate change through the exploitation of the planet's resources in his book 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'. Now, as Sunak tells his countrymen to buy British, it reminds us that the British went out to colonise so many parts of the globe precisely because there wasn't that much to buy at home. The raw materials of places like India finally gave Britain its chicken tikka masala, and there's no going back to mashed peas and boiled potatoes.

In fact, if they had just bought British in the first place, the history of the world would be very, very different. In that light, Sunak's plea sounds more plaintive than passionately patriotic. He has made it with a rather stoic disregard of the intertwined histories of both the country he leads and the country his ancestors came from. Social media is chortling that this is Gandhi's revenge, but Sunak remains straight-faced and impassive. Revenge might be a dish best served cold but post-colonial comeuppance, it seems, must come with a stiff upper lip. ■

### INBOX

#### Roadmap to dealing with heat waves

Apropos of the interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23), the ongoing heat wave conditions in the country reflect the effects of global climate change. To be more effective, heat action plans must be tailored to each region, keeping in mind differences in meteorological and socioeconomic conditions. They should also focus on long-term nature-based mitigation measures. Additional funds should be pledged for this.

— Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

I read Dilip Mavalankar's interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23) with interest. It is indeed undoubtedly true that most of the state governments do not properly report deaths due to heat waves. As a forensic surgeon, there have been instances where I have had to perform autopsies on 10-12 bodies in a single day during the month of May, all of which were heat stroke deaths, yet the vital statistics rarely reflect this. As the interviewee rightly said, a national health action plan is need of the hour.

— Dr K R Reddy, Visakhapatnam

AI-generated exams? Apropos of 'NET is far...' (ATM, June 23), the cancellation of exam fails to mitigate the issue in the long run. With the advent of new tech and AI, competitive exams shouldn't be conducted on pre-set question papers which are prone to leaks. Instead, we can have instant AI-generated papers based on the prescribed syllabus.

— Amit Tiwari, Amethi

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## Atmanirbhar with a twist: India's different from Korea, Latin nations

### SWAMINOMICS

#### SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARAI AYIAR

Last week, this column described how the govt's Atmanirbhar policy was evolving into an Indian version of the Korean chaebol, where industrial conglomerates are backed by their govt with support and subsidies to become world-class national champions. Similar policies mark other East Asian countries.

Will India emulate East Asia? Or will it go the way of Latin America, which also aimed to create national champions with high tariffs, quasi-monopolies, cheap credit, and ended with disasters in country after country? The chaebol bribed politicians. But Latin American corruption was enormously higher, with crony capitalism ruining economies. Despite historical advantages, the region failed to move from middle-income to high-income status. Argentina, among the richest countries in the 19th century, went bust seven times and regressed.

East Asian countries were always export-oriented and, hence, globally competitive. By contrast, Latin Americans aimed at self-sufficiency. The resulting lack of competitiveness doomed them.

Will India succeed in its version of chaebolisation? Or will it go the Latino crony way, as liberals like Raghuram Rajan fear? Consider three major fears.

One is incomplete chaebolisation. Korea kept out big multinationals. But Atmanirbhar has mixed sums. It seeks national champions but also wants to attract the

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# India prise Cup out of SA's hands

Virat Kohli, Pacers Star In Nerve-Shattering, Soul-Redeeming 7-Run Win As Proteas Choke Again With Finish Line In Sight

**TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

most memorable, after the one taken by Sreesanth to send Misbah-ul Haq home off the last ball of the 2007 final.

It was a battle of nerves after that and Hardik, who has gone through so many upheavals in his life recently, kept landing every ball on the spot. As Keshav Maharaj's last shot went nowhere, Hardik just sat down on the pitch with tears in his eyes. He had redeemed himself and so had Team India.

It wasn't just the last over. Hardik had the ball in his hand when Heinrich Klaasen and Miller were going great guns. All South Africa needed were 26 off 25 balls. Jasprit Bumrah's over had been negotiated, the flags were being folded, the journalists were switching their laptops off. Hardik bowled one slightly wide and Klaasen, who probably believed the World Cup was theirs by then, tried a punch that got a nick and went to the wicketkeeper. And that's where the infamous South African choke started setting in.

A team that had played with remarkable positivity until then started thinking about losing the game. Once such emotions start creeping in, there's a man in the Indian lineup who can simply hammer you. In came Bumrah for the 18th over and Marco Jansen completed a catch that will be remembered as the



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South Africa managed virtually nothing from those six balls and that turned the game. South Africa stuttered and stumbled, as they always do.

And now let's talk about a man who might not have played this game if the world had had its way. Captain Rohit Sharma had said before the

final that Kohli was saving his best for the final. And how the 'King' kept his word!

Things had gone wrong for India after they were reduced to 45-3 in the first Powerplay. Kohli (76 off 59 balls), after the first three boundaries that he hit in the first over, struggled to force the pace in the middle. But he didn't throw his wicket away and held one end up as Axar Patel (47 off 31 balls) played an innings of quality.

At a time when left arm

spinner Maharaj was looking to get on top, Axar took on the slog sweep and attacked the longer boundary, clearing it with ease. Axar and Kohli ran well between the wickets and the partnership of 72 was central to India reaching a score of respectability. Axar was looking for quite a few more but a moment's lapse of concentration allowed Quinton de Kock to take an aim at the stumps and break the stumps at the far end.

**176/7**

India recorded the highest total in the final of the T20 World Cup, bettering Australia's 173/2 vs NZ in Dubai on Nov 14, 2021. Ind a's previous highest in the T20 WC final was 157/5 vs Pak in Johannesburg on Sept 24, 2007.

**1** Virat Kohli has become the first Indian batter to post two fifties in the final of T20 World Cups – 77 vs Sri Lanka in Mirpur on April 6, 2014 and 76 vs SA in Bridgetown on June 29, 2024. Gautam Gambhir is the only other Indian to score a fifty in the final – 75 vs Pak on Sept 24, 2007.

**17** Arshdeep Singh, with 17 wickets at 12.64 in 8 matches, and Fazalhaq Farooqi, with 17 at 6.31 in as many matches jointly hold the record for most wickets in a T20 WC.

**72** Runs put on by Kohli and Axar Patel for the 4th wicket, Ind a's highest partnership in the final of the T20 WC, going past the 63 for the 3rd wicket between Gambhir and Yuvraj vs Pakistan on Sept 24, 2007.

—States Rajesh Kumar

## SCOREBOARD

India: R Sharma c Klaasen b Mahara 9, V Kohli c Klaasen b Jansen 76, R Pant c de Kock b Mahara 0, S Yadav c Klaasen b Rabada 3, A Patel run out 47, S Dube c Miller b Nortje 27, H Pandya 5 not out, R Jadeja c Mahara 5 Nortje 2. Extras: (nb1, w6) 7; Total: (20 overs; RR: 8.80); 176/7; Fow: 1-23, 2-23, 3-34, 4-106, 5-163, 6-174, 7-176; Bowling: Jansen 4-0-49-1, Mahara 3-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-36-1, Markram 2-0-16-0, Nortje 4-0-26-2, Shamsi 3-0-26-0.

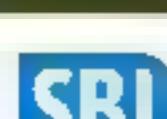
South Africa: R Hendricks b Bumrah 4, Q de Kock c Kuldeep b Arshdeep 39, A Markram c Pant b Arshdeep 4, T Stubbs b Axar 31, H Klaasen c Pant b Pandya 52, D Miller c Kuldeep b Pandya 2, M Jansen b Bumrah 2, K Mahara not out 2, K Mahara c Kuldeep b Pandya 4, A Nortje not out 1; Extras (b1, b4, nb1, w3); 9; Total (20 overs; RR: 8.45); 169/8; Fow: 1-7, 2-12, 3-70, 4-106, 5-151, 6-156, 7-161, 8-168; Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-20-2, Bumrah 4-0-18-2, Axar 4-0-49-1, Kuldeep 4-0-45-0, Pandya 3-0-20-3, Jadeja 1-0-12-0.

**Result: India won by 7 runs**  
Player of the Match: Virat Kohli  
Player of the Tournament: Jasprit Bumrah



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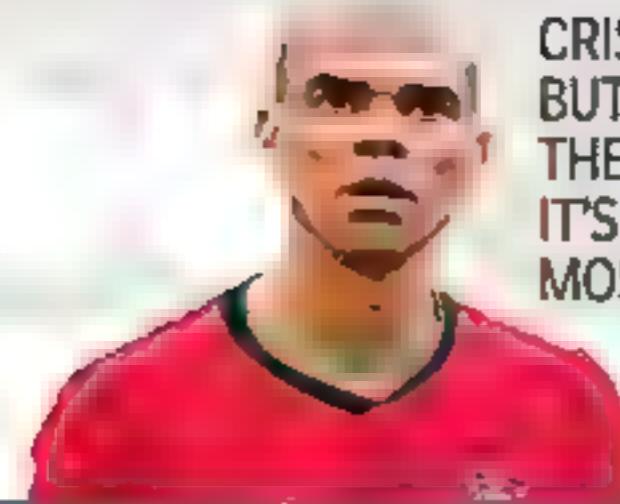
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CRISTIANO LIVES FOR GOALS, THAT'S A FACT, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN HIS AVAILABILITY ON THE FIELD TO HELP THE NATIONAL TEAM? IT'S INCREDIBLE. HE'S THE PLAYER WITH THE MOST MINUTES IN OUR TEAM, AT 39 YEARS."

—PEPE | PORTUGAL DEFENDER

## CIAO ITALY! HELLO SWISS!

Murat's Men Stun Defending Champions To Enter Quarterfinals With An Impressive Display



Berlin: Switzerland dumped reigning champions Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory on Saturday to reach the quarterfinals for the second time in their history.

Murat Yakin's supremely well-drilled side outplayed the flat two-time winners in the last 16 clash in Berlin and will face England or Slovakia in the next round.

Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler for Switzerland's 37th minute opener before curling home superbly himself right at the start of the second half to deservedly double their lead. A new-look Italy, short on star power and without many of the key figures that led them to Euro 2020 glory, offered little in response to Switzerland's energetic display.

Former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka, arriving at the Euros after a stunning season with German champions Bayer Leverkusen, pulled the string.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dropped Jorginho after his worrying group stage performances, bringing in Nicolo Fagioli in defensive midfield among a hefty six changes which failed to bring the Azzurri to life. The 23-year-old started a major tournament match for the first time, having missed most of the season with Juventus after a seven-month ban for gambling on football matches.

Spalletti said his team had no alternative but to improve in the knock-out rounds. How ever it was Switzerland who grew in confidence and pulled off their best display yet, making a bright start at the Olympiastadion in a sweltering Berlin, where a far more impressive Italy won the 2006 World Cup.

Former goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has been regaling the squad with stories from that triumph but it did not inspire a convincing performance – apart from his modern day counterpart, Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The Paris Saint Germain goalkeeper could not stop Freuler from firing Switzerland ahead after 37 minutes when the midfielder controlled Vargas' low cross and drilled home at the near post. Augsburg midfielder Vargas, who started in place of the suspended Silvan Widmer but on the left of the attack, broke into the area and arced a superb curling shot over Donnarumma in the 46th minute. AFP

### ROUND OF 16

**SWITZERLAND 2**  
Freuler 37, Vargas 45  
ITALY

## Tricks and treat: Spain's perfect record to be tested by Georgia

Velbert: Willy Sagnol ranked just qualifying for Euro 2024 with Georgia as one of the finest achievements in his impressive football career, but the Frenchman topped that by leading the tournament's rank outsiders into the knockout stages where they face Spain on Sunday.

The country of 3.7 million people in the Caucasus sits 74th in the FIFA rankings and had never been to a major tournament since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. "I thought we reached our maximum by qualifying in March," Sagnol admitted after Georgia beat Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal 2-0 to reach the last 16.

Georgia got to the Euros in a rather roundabout way, finishing fourth in their qualifying group behind Spain, Scotland and Norway. However, their impressive performances in the Nations League gave them another crack at making it via the play-offs, in which they beat Luxembourg and then defeated Greece on penalties.

Georgia's success on the pitch, where they are led by Napoli's old-school winger Khrischa Kvaratskhelia, comes at a time of political turmoil in the country.

On Friday, there was a much more laid-back atmosphere as Sagnol gathered his players together in the sunshine on their training pitch in Velbert, where the stadium looks down over the Ruhr valley towards the city of Essen.

Just after taking charge, Sagnol's Spain beat Georgia 2-1 at home in a 2022 World Cup qualifier. They went ahead, but Spain came back to win 2-1 thanks to a stoppage-time goal. Spain beat them 4-0 at home in that campaign, and won both meetings in qualifying for this tournament, including a 7-1 victory in Tbilisi. That shows the size of the task awaiting Georgia in Cologne. AFP

### SPAIN VS GEORGIA

Cologne Stadium

#### HEAD TO HEAD (7 games)

SPAIN WON 6 DRAWS 0

GEORGIA WON 1

#### FORM GUIDE

SPAIN

W W W W W

GEORGIA

W D 1 L 1 W D

(most recent first)



**66 (AGAINST PORTUGAL) WE COULD SEE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PLAY WITH EVERY TEAM AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO WIN. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOUR OPPONENTS ARE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO EASY TEAMS AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.** —Khrischa Kvaratskhelia | Georgia striker



**66 I played a game that is compatible to the level of the player I am. I always say that I never play for myself, I play for the team, for Brazil. Always try my best, but it's not always possible.** —Vinicius

## VINICIUS STEPS UP FOR BRAZIL, FINALLY

Atlanta: Vinicius Jr unleashed his inner beast in a little over 45 minutes of pure Brazilian football mayhem to guide the five-time World Cup champions to their first 2024 Copa America win against Paraguay on Friday.

The 23-year-old electric winger scored twice and delivered a much-needed statement performance that Brazilian fans have long been waiting for. The Real Madrid rising star may be one of the best players in the world but until now that fiery spark has not been seen in his na-



**66 I played a game that is compatible to the level of the player I am. I always say that I never play for myself, I play for the team, for Brazil. Always try my best, but it's not always possible.** —Vinicius

## ENGLAND SEEK SPARK, SLOVAKIA SEE OPPORTUNITY

Mainoo May Start, Shaw Set To Return As Southgate's Men Face Fierce Criticism

Gelsenkirchen: Gareth Southgate's gamble of naming long-injured Luke Shaw to his squad for Euro 2024 could soon pay off with the left back expected to make an imminent return in what would be his first game in more than four months.

England face Slovakia in the Round of 16 on Sunday in Gelsenkirchen and while the 29-year-old is not expected to start, he could provide a boost off the bench to a squad that has been without a left-footer in his position. "It's a calculated risk," Southgate told reporters when his squad was announced earlier this month. "I think you can take one gamble and that's a gamble, we've got enough evidence to believe it can pay off."

Southgate is also reportedly considering starting teenager Kobbie Mainoo in midfield.

Defence has been the most positive part of England's performance in Germany, with them conceding one goal in the group stage. While boasting some of the world's best attackers, England mustered only two goals in three games and were 20th in goal attempts.

Newcastle's Kieran Trippier is right-footed and so tends to turn inside, while Shaw is an attacking defender who loves to

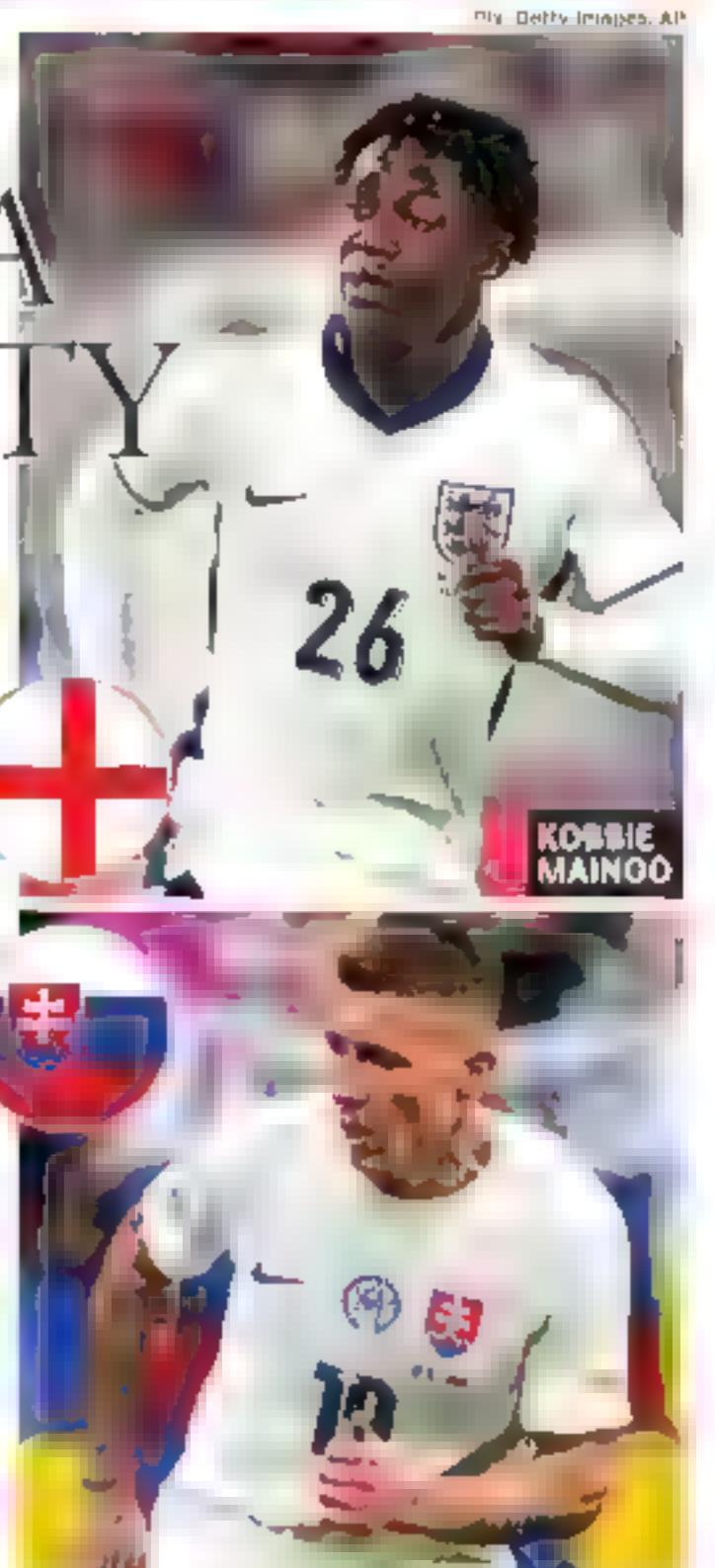
make overlapping runs down the left flank much like the team's right back Kyle Walker. England's two goals by Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane were assisted by Bukayo Saka and Walker on the right.

Shaw was solid in England's 2020 European Championship run, scoring an early goal in the team's loss to Italy in a penalty shootout in the final.

#### Bitter revisit

England also scored only two goals in the group stage of the last Euros before progressing to a first major tournament final in 55 years. However, it is the shades of Euro 2016 that will send shivers down the spines of England fans heading to Gelsenkirchen. Eight years ago Roy Hodgson's side also stumbled their way through the group phase with five points only to be handed a seemingly kind draw against Iceland. Iceland pulled off a shock 2-1 win.

Under coach Francesco Caputo, Slovakia have produced one of the shocks of the tournament by beating Belgium 1-0 in their opening game. AFP



**JUJAJ KUCKA**  
The Slovakia midfielder has two assists so far. He has 100 per cent crossing accuracy in 3 matches. He is 8th in key players stats ranking, covering a distance of 34.02km. Kucka will make a record-extending 11 appearances for Slovakia at Euros

**66 We remember where we started. When our coach first took the job, we were playing friendly matches in front of 2,000 people in the stadium. And now, after two years of hard work, we're among the best 16 teams in Europe. So, it's really wonderful, and we're happy about it.** —Milan Skriniar | SLOVAKIA CAPTAIN

**0-0** England's one failure to defeat Slovakia was at Euro 2016 in their only previous major tournament meeting, a goalless draw in Saint-Etienne, in which the Three Lions had their most shots (29) in a European Championship match on record (since 1980).

England

**2 Goals**  
(0.67 avg. per match)  
**336.09km**  
Distance covered (111.67 avg. per match)

Slovakia

**3 Goals**  
(1 avg. per match)  
**342.36km**  
Distance covered (113.67 avg. per match)

**30** The average age of the Slovakia starting XI (30 years, 218 days) in the group stage was the oldest in the competition. They've handed 809 minutes to players aged 35 or older, with only Italy at Euro 2016 giving more at a single Euro (870).

Slovakia

**66** Everything that's happened is now pretty irrelevant. We have things that we can build on, but also, each individual game can take wild directions at times." —Gareth Southgate  
ENGLAND MANAGER



Patrick Sequela bundled over Cordoba in the box.

As Costa Rica pressed for an equaliser they left themselves open on the break and Colombia made them pay, with Sanchez outmuscling defender Juan Pablo Vargas to head Jhon Arias' corner past Sequela from close range in the 59th minute.

After scoring, Sanchez held up the jersey of team mate Jhon Lucumi, who missed the match due to an injury. Cordoba rounded out the scoring three minutes later after timing his run perfectly to stay onside and latch onto James Rodriguez's long ball. REUTERS



## COLOMBIA BEAT COSTA RICA TO BOOK LAST-8 SPOT

Glendale: Colombia cruised to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in Group D on Friday and booked their spot in the Copa America quarters thanks to strikes from Luis Diaz, Davinson Sanchez and Jhon Cordoba.

Colombia started the match well and took the lead in the 31st minute through Liverpool winger Diaz, who confidently converted from the penalty spot after Costa Rica goalkeeper

# 'King Kohli' saves his best for last

Got The Job Done When Mattered, Says Batter; Announces Retirement From Format

Dwaipayan.Datta  
@timesgroup.com

**Bridgetown (Barbados):** Virat was smiling one moment and crying the next. It was a moment that was meant for King Kohli and he deserved every bit of it. As India's greatest T20 cricketer announced his international retirement from the format, he had a Man-of-the-Match award in his hand. And he had just fashioned a World Cup victory for India.

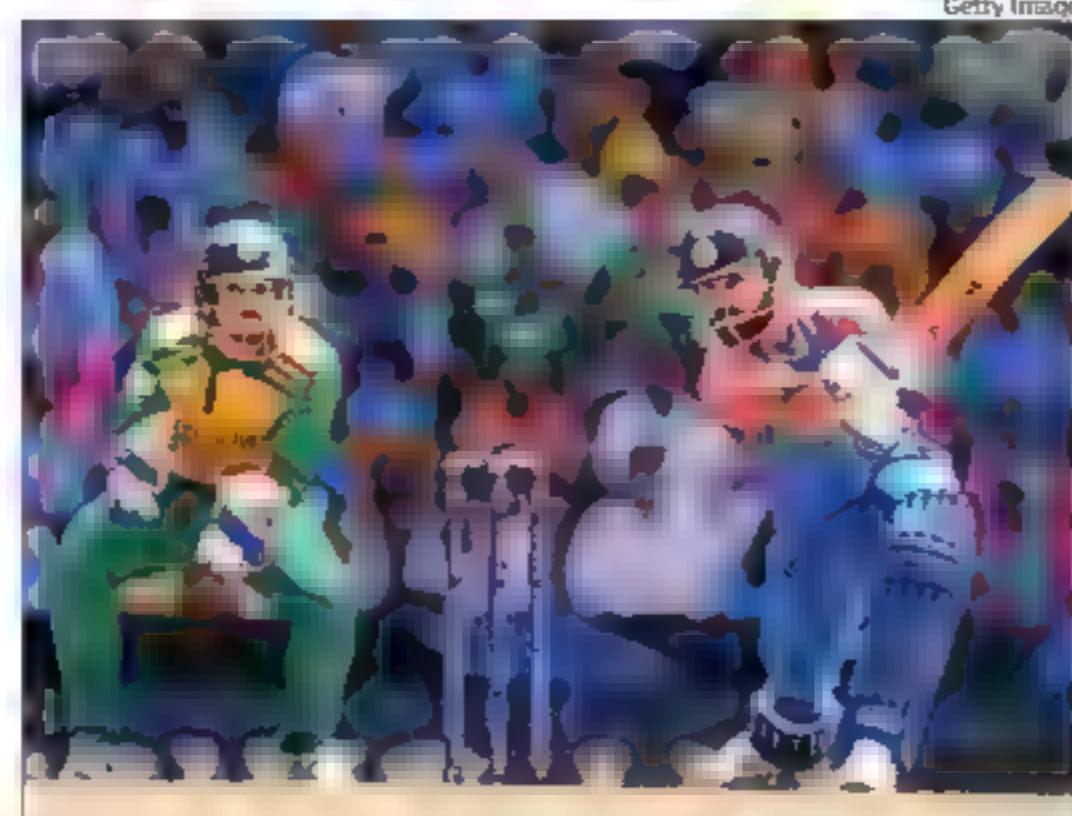
Nothing had gone wrong for Virat in this World Cup. If the Twitterati had its way, he wouldn't have been playing the final, but there was a team management that believed Kohli would come good. "He is saving his best for the final," captain Rohit Sharma said after India won their semifinal without much of a hassle.

Even on Saturday, the

world ranted as Kohli was fighting it out in the middle. After hitting three beautiful boundaries in the first over, India had lost three quick wickets and Virat was suddenly left to pull off a rescue act. Yes, he wasn't connecting, but the old pro knew how to deal with those moments.

Many of those who remember Kohli from his days in the 2016 World Cup — when he took Australia apart in Mohali to fashion one of India's greatest-ever run chases — believed he would play in the same vein every day, year after year. On Saturday at the Kensington Oval, the homeground of Sir Garry Sobers, Kohli showed the world that taking a few blows on the chin and battling it out is also a rare quality.

"One day you feel you can't get a run, then things happen. I got the job done for the team



THE MASTER AT WORK: Kohli in full flow on Saturday

on the day it mattered. It was now or never for me. I wanted to make the most of it. I wanted to lift the cup, wanted to respect the situation rather than force it," Kohli said.

The champion batter said about his T20I retirement

ment that "this was an open secret". In fact, he might not have played the T20 World Cup had India won the ODI World Cup last year. But it was the hurt of that defeat that kept Virat pushing for it. He had a magnificent IPL

and put all speculation about his inclusion in the squad to rest.

The team management opened a slot for him — that of the opener — to make his game relevant for the format. Kohli was there for the insurance he provided at the top of the order, which wasn't happening till the final. But he was not ready to let go. Some of his batting in the nets of Barbados against Jasprit Bumrah, India's greatest white-ball match winner, was beyond brilliant as he prepared himself for the moment.

And once he got it done, the "King" announced that was time for the younger lot to take over. "It's time for the next generation to take over, some amazing players will take the team forward and keep the flag waving high." They will surely do, but Virat will never be forgotten.

## Luus, Kapp keep South Africa alive

### ...After India Pile Up Record Total

Hima Soraia  
@timesgroup.com

**Chennai:** Gritty half-centuries from Sune Luus (65, 164; 6x4, 1x6) and Marizanne Kapp (69\*, 125b, 8x4) sparked a South African resurgence as they crawled their way to 236-4 after India declared their record-shattering innings

### ONE-OFF TEST:

at 63-6 on Day Two of the one-off Test. They stitched a near-century stand to stay alive in the contest.

The visitors remained unfazed about India's gigantic total and went about their business calmly. Proteas openers Laura Wolvaardt (20) and Anneke Bosch (39) were undeterred by the scorching heat in their seven overs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium as they began their innings in smooth fashion. Both got off the mark with a four and went on to hit the pacers for boundaries.

The right-arm off break bowler looked determined to get rid of South Africa captain Wolvaardt. In the eighth over, she first lost a review when a sharply turning delivery appeared to be on the path of Wolvaardt's stumps. Three deliveries later, she finally got her prized wicket as the ball kept low and did not turn as much as it did in the previous deliveries, trapping Wolvaardt LBW. Speaking after the match, Sune, who was the pick of the bowlers, said, "Laura's wicket was the most satisfactory one. I'm happy that I finally got it."

After losing Wolvaardt, Bosch and Luus kept India at bay in a well-curated stand of 63 runs off 137 balls.

ries occasionally

To separate the duo, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who had closely observed the passage of play in the morning session, was tempted to bring in the ever-reliable Sneh Rana (3-61) on the spin-friendly surface. Right after the lunch break, Sneh hit the nail on the head by giving India their first breakthrough.

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The ace bowler added, "It just felt good, and I tried to keep myself in a bubble and tried not to think too far ahead. When the big day comes, you have to do it. I always think about one ball and one over at a time, don't think too far ahead. Emotions can take over, it was taking over but you have to keep it in check but now that the game is over, it can come out."

Player of the Match Virat Kohli finally showed his class in the final with a superb 76. "This was my last T20 World Cup, this is exactly what we wanted to achieve. One day you feel like you can't get a run and this happens, God is great. Just the occasion, now or never kind of situation. This was my last T20 game playing for India and we wanted to lift that cup."

The master batsman revealed that he would have announced his retirement from T20 Internationals even if India had lost. "It's time for the next generation to take the T20 game forward. It's been a long wait for us, waiting to win an ICC tournament. You look at someone like Rohit, he's played 9 T20 World Cups and this is my sixth. He deserves it. It's been difficult to hold emotions back and I think it's going to sink in later

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## GALLERY

Pragg lets Gukesh off the hook on a day of draws

**Bucharest:** R Pragganandhaa missed out on becoming a joint leader at the Superbet Classic chess tournament after setting for a draw against compatriot D Gukesh in the third round here. After losing to Gukesh in the last Candidates tournament in April earlier this year, Pragganandhaa had a great opportunity to equalise the score this year but could not find a winning continuation after Gukesh spoiled a drawn endgame.

**Malvika shocks Kristy to enter semis:** Malvika Bansod stunned Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in a thrilling three-game match to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament. The 22-year-old from Nagpur, ranked 49th, registered a 10-21 21-15 21-10 win over Kristy, a 2024 Commonwealth Games silver medalist. In men's singles, Priyanshu Raawat produced a good show but couldn't get past fourth seed Lee Lan Xi of China, losing 21-15 11-21 18-21 in a quarterfinal match. Second seed Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost 17-21 21-17 19-21 to Japanese sixth seed Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato to also end their campaign in the last eight round.

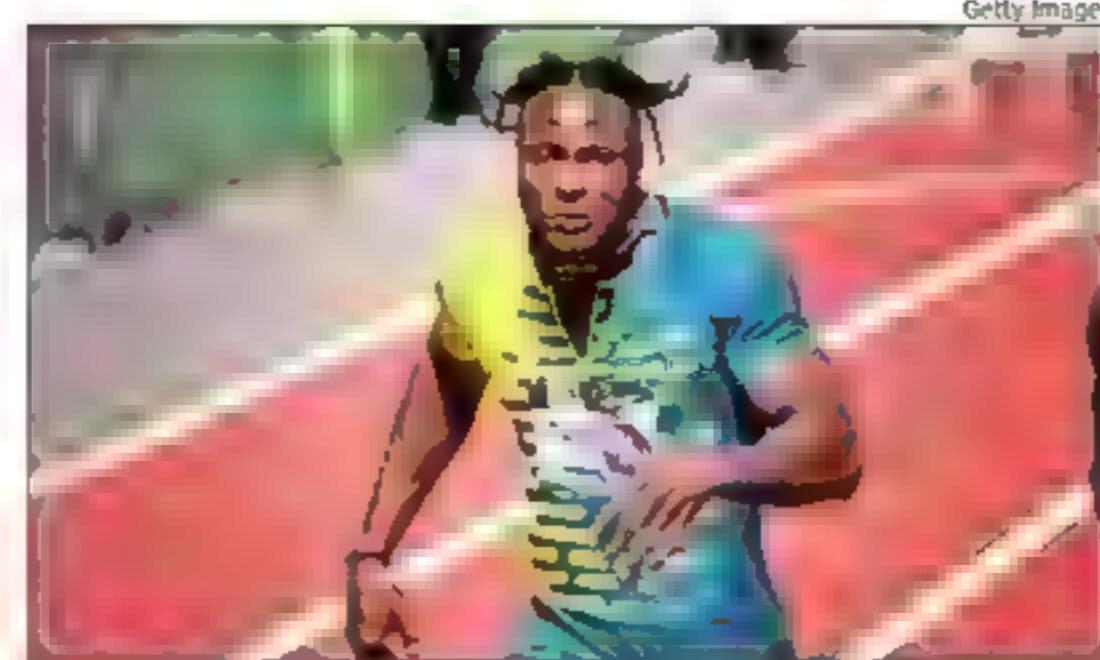
**Tabilo first Chilean man to win grasscourt title in Open era:** Alejandro Tabilo became the first Chilean man to win a grasscourt title in the Open era at the Mallorca Championships on Saturday. Tabilo, seeded fourth, defeated the unseeded Sebastian Ofner of Austria 6-3, 6-4 in the final.

**Kasatkina, Fritz win Eastbourne titles:** Daria Kasatkina and Taylor Fritz won the women's and men's singles titles respectively at the Eastbourne International on Saturday as they both enjoyed morale-boosting grasscourt triumphs just days out from the start of Wimbledon. Kasatkina's 6-3, 6-4 victory over Leylah Fernandez gave the Russian her first grass-court title. AGENCIES

**ACTION TODAY**

**AUTO:** F1, Austrian GP, Race 6.30 pm (FanCode); **BADMINTON:** US Open, Finals, 10.30 pm (Jio); **CRICKET:** India Wom vs SA Wom, only Test, Day 3, 9.30 am (Jio); **FOOTBALL:** Euro 2024, Eng vs Slovakia, 9.30 pm; Spain vs Georgia, 12.30 am Monday (Sony)

# Sizzling run by Thompson



PUTTING ON A SHOW: Kishane Thompson in action

**Year-Leading Mark Of 9.77 Seconds Set To Win 100m Sprint In Olympic Trials**

**Kingston:** Kishane Thompson registered a sizzling world leading mark of 9.77 seconds to win the men's 100 metres at the Jamaican Olympic trials on Friday, becoming the joint ninth fastest man in history.

Two-time World Championships finalist Oblique Seville was second in 9.82, while World Indoor 60m bronze medalist Ackiem Blake finished third in 9.82.

Thompson, who is in only his second season as a professional, had not raced at all this season before the Jamaican championship and told Reuters he believes he can go faster. "My coach instructed me just to run the first 60 metre, nothing more, after

that, shut it down," he said.

"If I came second or third, I would've made the team. The goal wasn't to prove anything, just run the 70 or 80 metres and see where I was."

Thompson, now the fourth fastest Jamaican behind Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell, said he had much to improve on making his Olympic debut in Paris.

"It's kind of new to me, but

I'm getting it slowly," he said.

**Fraser-Pryce, Jackson earn 100m spots for Paris**

Shericka Jackson recovered from a poor start to win the women's 100m in 10.84, clawing her way from the back of the field after 30 metres to power past Tia Clayton (10.90) and twice Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.94).

Both Jackson and Fraser-Pryce earned their place at the Paris Olympics.

Jackson, the back-to-back world champion in the 200m, said winning was more important than running a faster time. "Coach and I sat down and talked about how we wanted the approach the season, and I think we did pretty good, having only ran one 100m prior to the national trials," Jackson told Reuters.

"It's a work in progress and I will now turn my attention to retaining my 200m title over the next two days."

Malik James-King won the 400m hurdles in 47.42, moving up to number five in the world this season as he crossed the finish 0.62 seconds ahead of national record holder Roshawn Clarke, while Jaheel Hyde was third in 48.35. James-King said he never panicked, even as he left it until hurdle number nine to catch Clarke. REUTERS

## Djokovic 'pain free' ahead of Wimbledon

**Novak Djokovic** proclaimed himself "pain free" after defeating Daniil Medvedev in an exhibition match on Friday ahead of Wimbledon.

Former world number one Djokovic, the seven-time Wimbledon champion, need ed surgery earlier this month following a serious knee injury at the French Open.



And I'm really glad. It was a great test obviously against one of the best players in the world. I've played a couple of practice sets but I really wanted to test myself.

The test was very successful so I'm obviously really glad. It's an intense three week after surgery, spending a lot of hours rehabbing."

Djokovic, whose tally of 24 singles titles at Grand Slam tournaments is the most won by any man in tennis history, added: "I kind of wanted to give myself a chance to be in London. I think my surgeon is here. He's the MVP (most valuable player) for sure the last three weeks. I'm trying to take it day by day and see how far it goes."

Djokovic was forced to pull out ahead of his quarter final Verstappen and stayed glued to the Red Bull for the first few laps, using his DRS to attack the championships leader. Norris even managed to overtake Verstappen briefly on lap five after a daring move on the straight leading into a sharp turn, but the Dutch driver responded by

We had to work for it," Verstappen said.

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"It was a good first lap but once the DRS opens it is very hard to get out of it," Verstappen said. AGENCIES

## Verstappen holds off McLaren challenge



IN FORM: Max Verstappen

Verstappen held off an early attack by Lando Norris before pulling away from the two McLarens to comfortably secure his third sprint race victory of the year Saturday at the Austrian Grand Prix.

Verstappen finished 4.616 seconds ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri to make it three wins out of three in sprint races this season, with Norris another 0.732 seconds back in third. The dominant Verstappen has also won seven of the 10 grand prix races this season as he aims for a seemingly inevitable fourth straight F1 title, but he was put under serious pressure early on in this one.

We had to work for it," Verstappen said.

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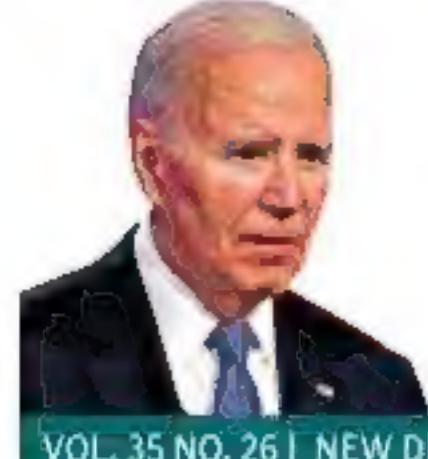
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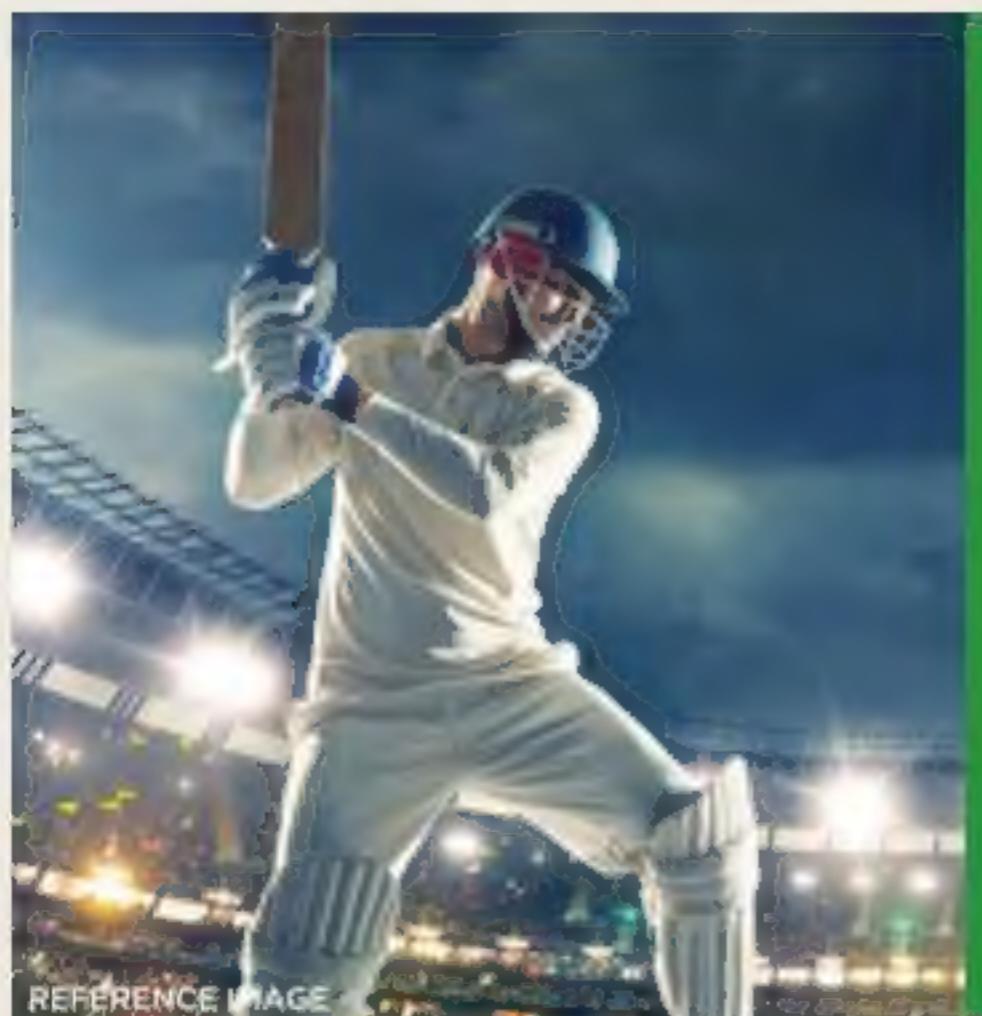


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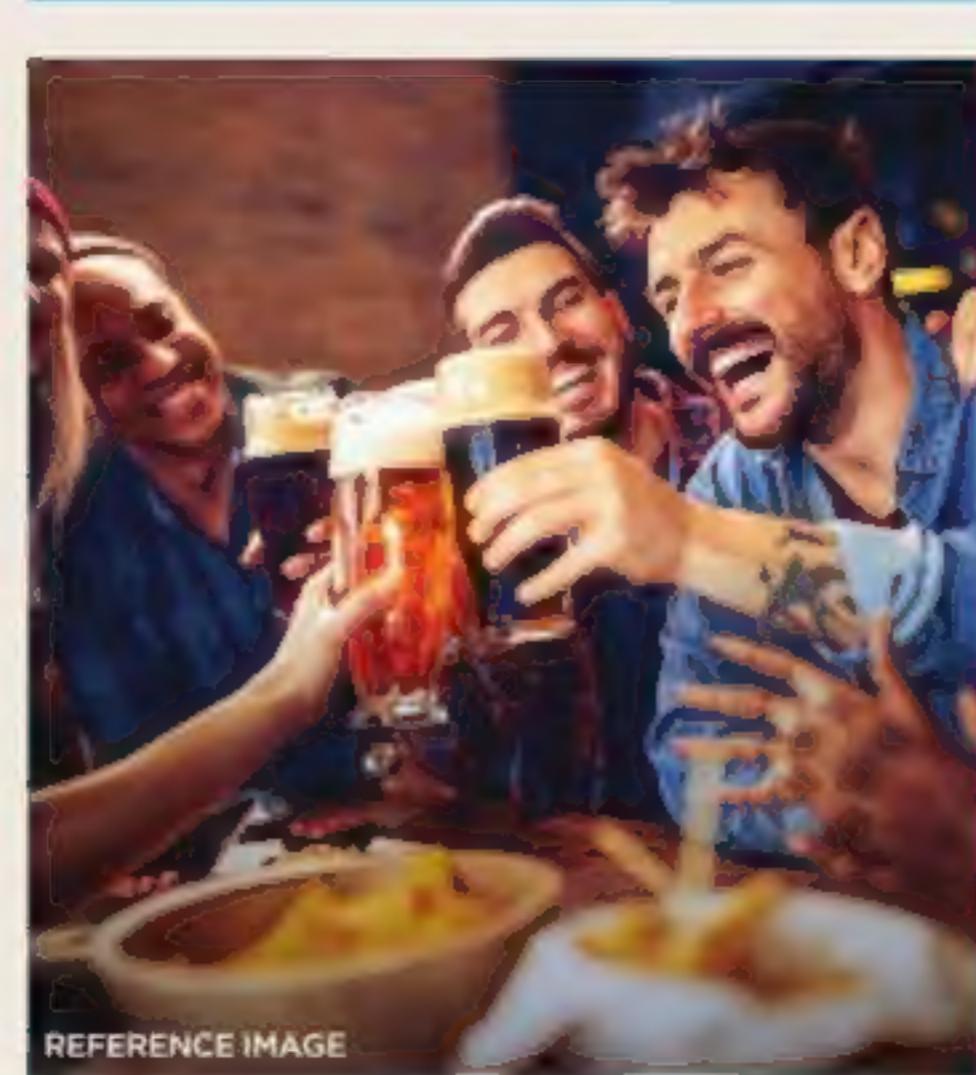
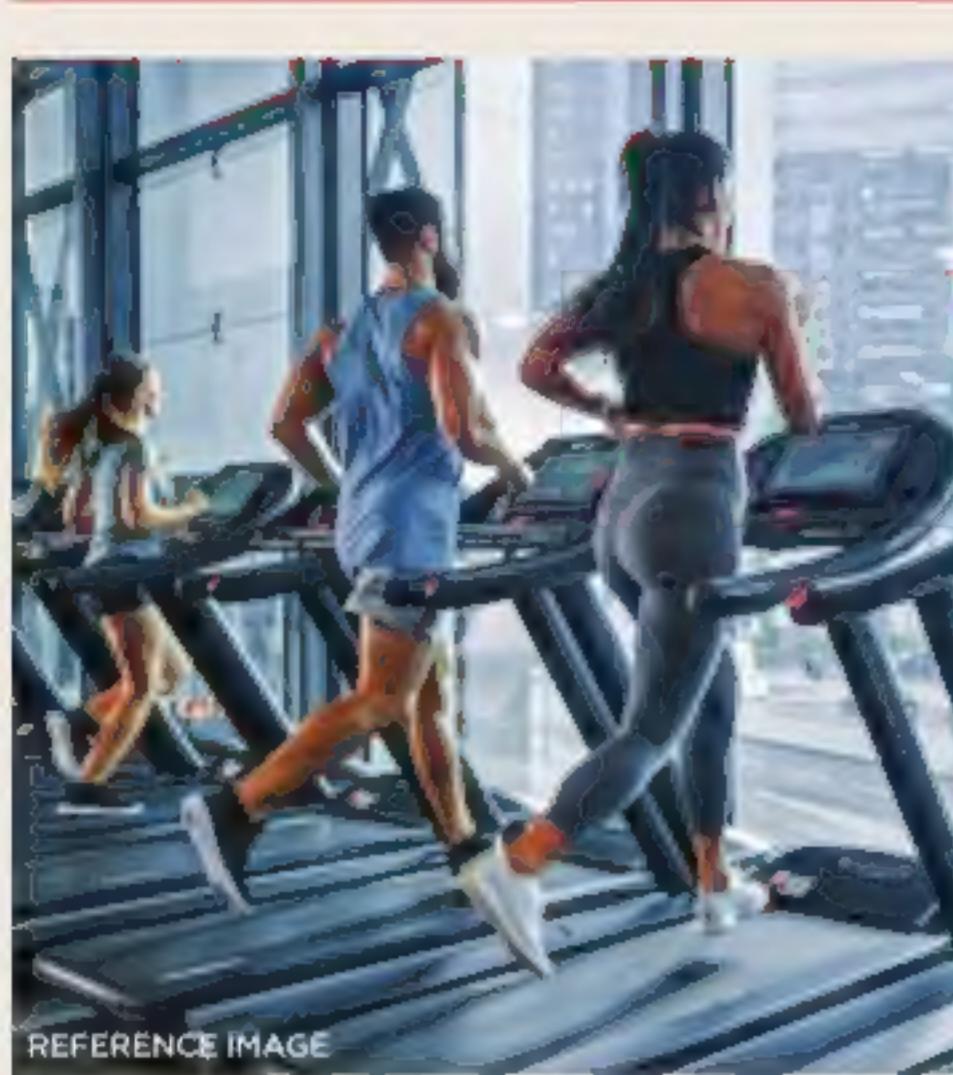
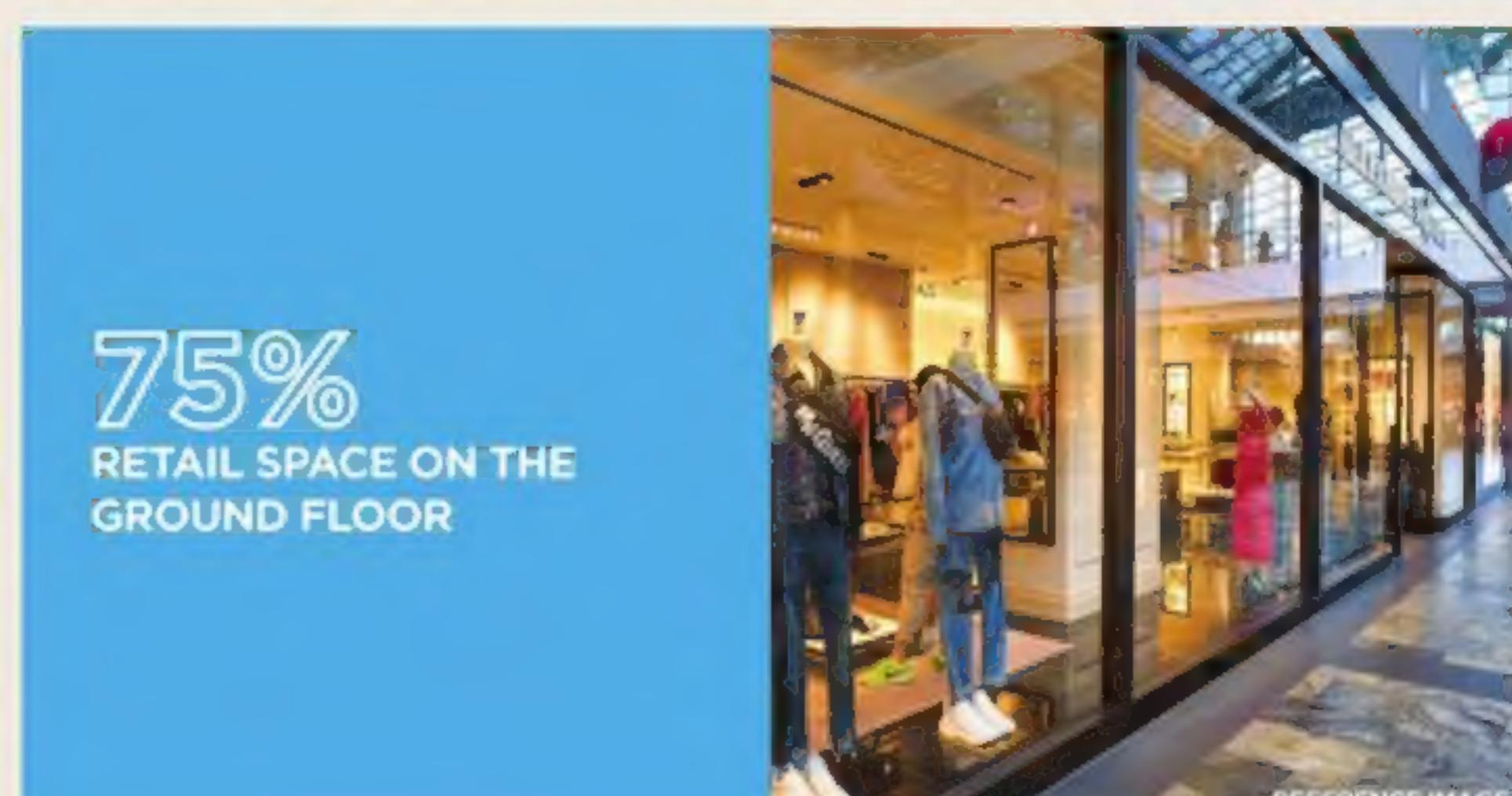
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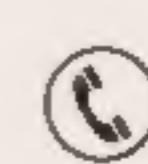
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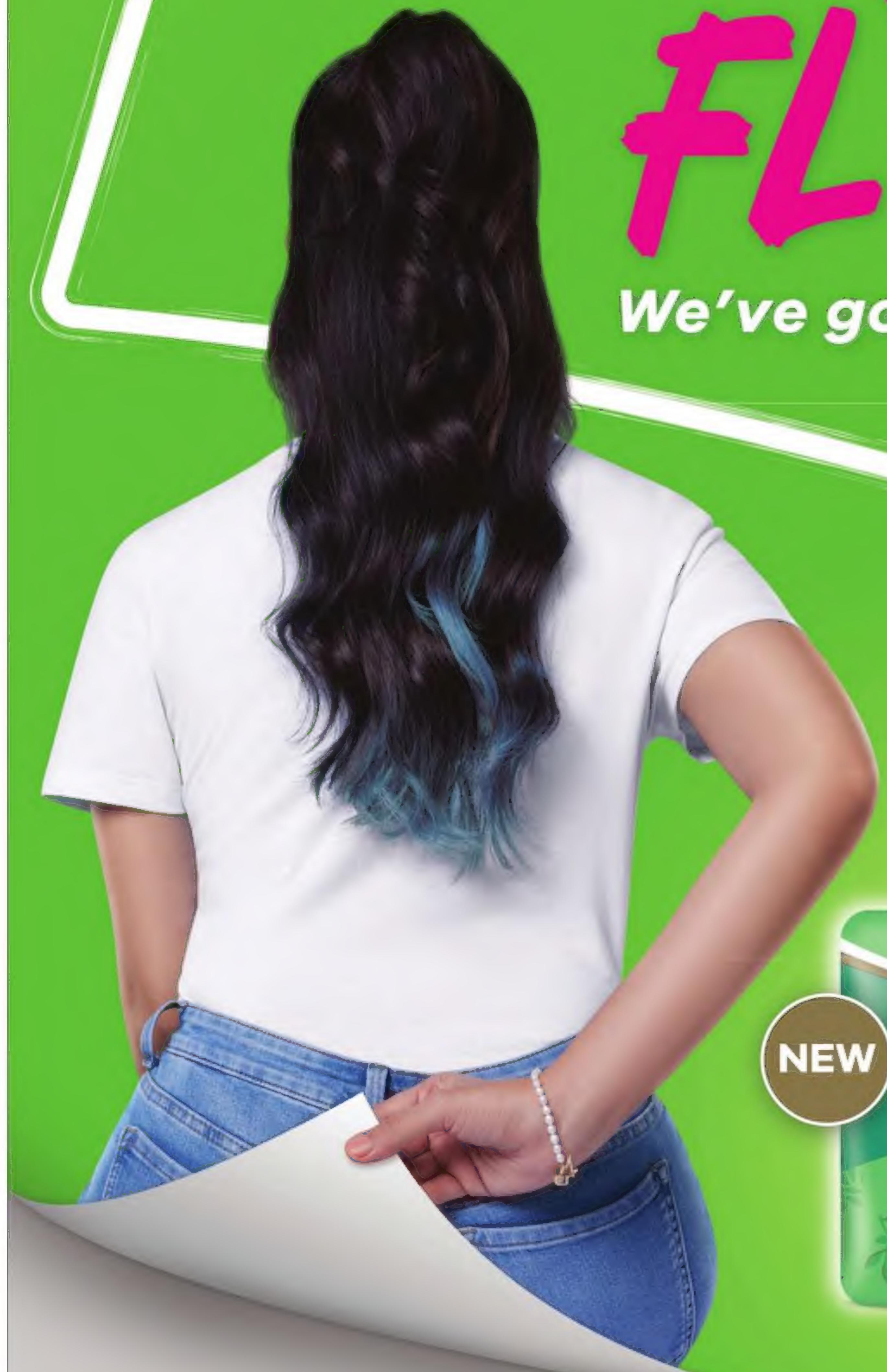


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# Why France will vote twice in polls it didn't see coming

Trounced By The Right Wing In EU Polls, French Prez Macron Thrust Snap Elections On The Country That's Hosting Next Month's Olympics. It's Anybody's Match As Voting Begins Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In elections to the European Parliament on June 9, the far-right National Rally party secured double the vote share of Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party, which narrowly escaped coming third by staying just ahead of the left. Macron immediately called for elections within 20 days to the French National Assembly or parliament, taking colleagues and the opposition by surprise.

His party did not have a majority in the outgoing parliament, which meant he had to constantly look for support from others to push through laws, or use constitutional provisions to controversially enact them, like his pension reforms, which have faced wide opposition among the French public. Parliamentary elections were last held in 2022 but failed to return a clear winner with Macron appointing a govt led by his own party.

The assembly was not required to go to polls till 2027, but Macron would've been chafing at the constant hassle of cobbling together support and the attendant threat of facing a no-confidence vote.

French people will vote once today and, in most constituencies, again on July 7 to send representatives to the 577-member parliament. The majority mark is 289 with Macron's party holding 250 seats in the now-dissolved assembly. National Rally had 88 seats but is expected to vastly improve its tally and emerge as the single-largest party even if it falls short of majority. Much of the outcome will depend on the turnout and political dynamics between like-minded parties.

In constituencies where at least 25% of voters cast their ballot on Sunday, the candidate who corners more than half the votes is declared the outright winner. Failing that, every candidate who bags more than 12.5% of the votes will be on the ticket for the July 7 runoff, where the winner is the one who secures the majority of votes.

This system provides scope for 'tactical voting', that is, voters whose candidate doesn't make it to the runoff may choose to vote for another party (usually to keep out the far-right). Parties also withdraw candidates for the



**ALL OR NOTHING:** Marine Le Pen and far-right National Rally chief Jordan Bardella are expected to lead their party to a historic win while Macron and French PM Gabriel Attal will be hoping that the snap poll gamble pays off and they secure a majority in parliament

runoff to improve the chances of an ally. This time, the main worry for Macron and his centrist Ensemble alliance will be the broad left New Popular Front coalition, part of which is the well-known radical left figure of Jean-Luc Mélenchon of the France Unbowed party. Experts say that the left coalition may eat into Renaissance party's votes, leaving Macron faced with the prospect of running only the fourth 'co-habitation' — implying a president and PM belonging to two different parties — in French govt and the first in the last 20 years.

**Who's Likely To Form Govt?** Opinion polls put Macron's party at third behind National Rally and New Popular Front. But Jordan Bardella, leader of the National Rally — the outfit associated most closely with Marine Le Pen and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen — has said his party won't form the govt unless it wins a majority. The 28-year-old Bardella stands a chance to break the record of becoming France's youngest PM if he takes over from Gabriel Attal, who was 34 when Macron named him PM in January this year.

Macron has the constitutional prerogative of appointing the PM, but his choice has to reflect the composition of

the assembly. If National Rally wins and refuses to form the govt, experts say a 'technocratic' dispensation comprising members unaffiliated to any party could be put in place to run the day-to-day affairs till the next elections.

**High Stakes** Macron's gambit would be to confront the French public with the choice of having an extreme far-right govt or voting for liberals and moderates to run the republic. French football star Kylian Mbappé recently said that "the extremes are at the gates of power", inviting a strong reaction from Bardella about rich sportspersons not understanding the cost-of-living crisis that has hit the ordinary French person on the street.

French voters and mainstream parties have generally acted to prevent radical parties from coming to office but the so-called 'cordon sanitaire' in French politics — or, mainstream parties refusing to ally with fringe parties — has broken this time with Eric Ciotti, leader of the main conservative party, the Republicans, saying they would join hands with National Rally. However, that declaration was accompanied by angry rumblings from his colleagues.

For France, these elections kick off a quest to decide whether the country will make a hard right ahead of the next presidential polls, when Macron is automatically disallowed from running, or if the centrist and liberal parties maintain their hold on power in the world's seventh largest economy, which is also a nuclear-armed UN Security Council member and a major pillar of the EU edifice.

He began his speech with "Jai Swaminarayan" and praised British Hindus for not having forgotten their roots, for their "rich Hindu heritage and deep commitment to Britain's future".

"If we're elected next week we will strive to govern in the spirit of seva to serve you and a world in need," he said. "Strengthened by Hindu values, you're not only contributing massively to our economy, you're bringing innovation and expertise that keeps us competitive on the global market."

He said Labour had a record number of Hindu candidates in the general election.



A left alliance that includes prominent far-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon is tipped to gain at the expense of Macron's Ensemble combine



Footballer Kylian Mbappé recently warned about radical parties winning power, inviting a strong reaction from far-right leader Bardella

## AI race: US states try to make sure workers aren't left behind

**Hartford (US):** With many jobs expected to eventually rely on generative artificial intelligence, US states are trying to help workers beef up tech skills before they become outdated and get outfoxed by machines.

Connecticut is working to create what proponents believe will be the country's first Citizens AI Academy, a free online repository of curated classes that users can take to learn basic skills or obtain a certificate needed for employment. "This is a rapidly evolving area," said state Democratic Senator James Maroney. "So we need to all learn what the best sources for staying current. How can we update our skills? Who can be trusted sources?"

This year at least four states — Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi and California — proposed legislation that attempted to deal with AI in the classroom somehow. They ranged from Connecticut's planned AI Academy, which was originally inclu-

ded in a wide-ranging AI regulation bill that failed but the concept is still being developed by state education officials, to proposed working groups that examine how AI can be incorporated safely in public schools. Such a bill died in the Mississippi legislature while the others remain in flux. One bill in California would require a state working group to consider incorporating AI literacy skills into math, science, history and social science curriculums.

While Connecticut's planned AI Academy is expected to offer certificates to people who complete certain skills, Maroney said the academy will also include basics, from digital literacy to how to pose questions to a chatbot. AP

## Turbulence in WaPo as daily loses dollars

**T**he prestigious *Washington Post* is in crisis, with pressure on from owner Jeff Bezos to change its money-losing ways. The Post's managing editor abruptly resigned; a chosen successor withdrew under fire, and a boss has been targeted in the newspaper's columns.

At the heart of the storm is the "WaPo's" new CEO, Britton William Lewis, who was given a mission by Amazon founder Bezos when he appointed him last autumn. Lewis was asked to turn around a newspaper that continues to pile up Pulitzer Prizes half a century after the Watergate scandal it instigated, but which has lost \$77 million in 2023 despite job cuts and the disappearance of its Sunday supplement. The Post was among trusted news outlets that benefited from the upheaval that



**ALL EYES:** For many observers, the outcome of the crisis lies in the hands of billionaire Bezos, who bought the Post for \$250 million in 2013. So far, Bezos has backed his CEO

mer journalist, who made history in the 2000s with a scoop on the expenses of British MPs when he was editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, is finding his position increasingly vulnerable.

For weeks now, revelations have multiplied about his role, when he was working for the

## Here's what it would take Democrats to replace Joe Biden as party nominee

### Forcing Him Out To Be A Huge Task

Democrats have ways to replace Joe Biden at the top of their presidential ticket after a harrowing debate against Republican Donald Trump — but doing so without their standard-bearer's acquiescence would be a daunting task. Party members once united behind Biden are now scouring candidate resumes and researching rules for a contingency plan to present voters with a different nominee after a universally panned performance Thursday cemented worries about the President's ability to serve a second term.

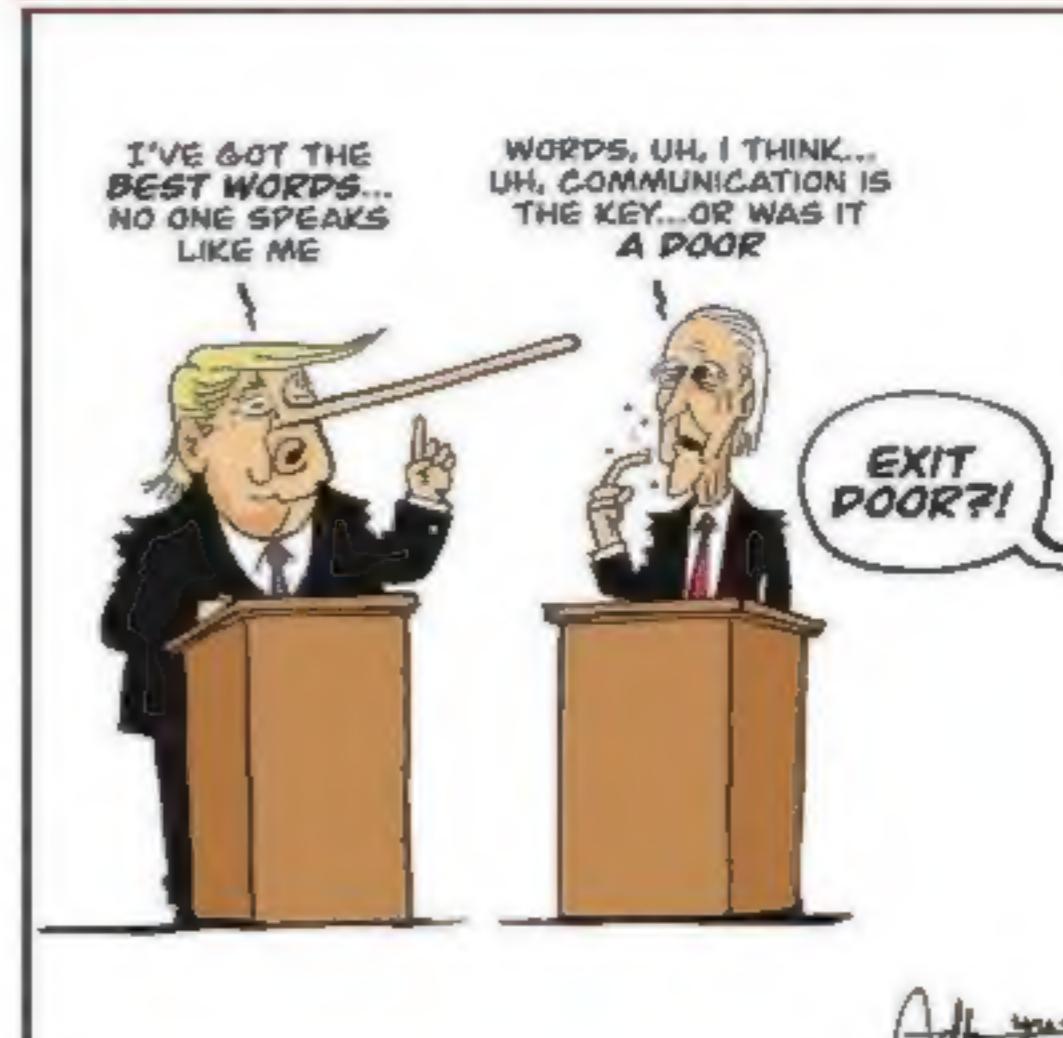
"The easiest one is, Biden takes himself out of the race," said Elaine Kamarck, a Democratic National Committee member and author of a book about the presidential nominating process. "Then yes, the're's rules and procedures and the party would replace him." While pushing Biden off the ticket is possible, the lack of an obvious candidate to replace him makes such a gambit unlikely, Kamarck said.

The debate saw months of Democratic anxiety over Biden, already the oldest US president in history at 81, and his prospects for defeating Trump, boil over.

The president Friday acknowledged the limitations of his debate showing but dismissed calls to exit the race.

### TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



If Biden doesn't step aside, forcing him out would be a Herculean undertaking for Democrats. Any rival would first have to collect 600 delegate signatures on a petition to place his or her name in nomination at the Democratic convention — with no more than 50 signatures from any one state. That's about 13% of the delegates. But with Biden controlling 99% of the pledged delegates, that would require challengers convincing Biden loyalists to flip their support.

"The odds are not insurmountable, but they're very high for any scenario that involves a delegate revolt," said Josh Putnam of FHQ Strategies, a non-partisan consultancy.

A move to change the ticket — whether Biden agrees to go willingly or is pushed out — would bring a convention free-for-all not seen for decades.

In an "open" or "brokered" convention, no candidate comes into the roll-call vote with a recommendation. BLOOMBERG

enough delegates to be guaranteed the nomination. Voting could last any number of rounds until a candidate wins.

Such a convention would also put so-called "super-delegates" in the spotlight. Those delegates — leaders and elected officials who get to the convention by virtue of their position — have been stripped of some powers in recent years as the party worried their influence in the process was undemocratic. But if a nomination goes into a second ballot, those automatic delegates, who number more than 700, could sway the convention.

Another wild card is that the party is free to change its rules at any time before the nomination, potentially lowering or raising the bar for a Biden challenger.

The most obvious heir apparent is vice-president Kamala Harris — but Democrats don't have to pick Biden's running mate. Some of the most discussed alternatives include Governors Gavin Newsom of California, JB Pritzker of Illinois and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, all of whom say they still support Biden.

The nomination vote was scheduled for Aug 21, but the DNC has raised the possibility of a virtual roll call before Aug 7 to accommodate early ballot deadlines. If Biden steps aside after the convention, the decision on how to replace him would be up to the 400 plus members of the DNC — the chairman would consult with Democratic congressional leaders and governors and make a recommendation.

## Orban takes helm of EU presidency

**H**ungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's frequent attacks against Brussels and his warm relations with Russia have left the country increasingly isolated as it takes over the bloc's rotating presidency on Monday. The longest-serving leader in the European Union, Orban has recently ramped up his rhetoric against what he calls the "technocratic élite of Brussels", warning "we will rack our brains to hurt them".

"It's unbelievable. It's like the defendant in a trial has suddenly taken over the prosecution," said his biographer and journalist, Paul Lendvai.

While he warned not to "overestimate the importance" of Hungary's six-month presidency, he predicted that Orban would continue to block key issues as he did with EU aid for Ukraine while "loosening restrictions" on rule of law issues on which he has been censured by Brussels in order to unlock blocked EU funds.

Orban openly supports former American president Donald Trump. AFP

## No place for Hinduphobia in UK, says Labour leader

Naomi Cawthron

**London:** Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, who is widely expected to become the next British prime minister, visited the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury on Friday where he said "there is absolutely no place for Hinduphobia in Britain" and that Labour would "build a new strategic partnership with India".

He began his speech with "Jai Swaminarayan" and praised British Hindus for not having forgotten their roots, for their "rich Hindu heritage and deep commitment to Britain's future".

"If we're elected next week we will strive to govern in the spirit of seva to serve you and a world in need," he said. "Strengthened by Hindu values, you're not only contributing massively to our economy, you're bringing innovation and expertise that keeps us competitive on the global market."

He said Labour had a record number of Hindu candidates in the general election.



Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer during a visit to the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury, London, Friday

"abhisheka", interacted with local schoolchildren and was given "prasad".

Dr Neeraj Patil, chairman of Hindus for Labour, said: "He is going to address anti-Hindu hatred, which is most welcome. He is sending a strong positive signal to 1.7 million British Hindus that the prospective Labour govt will include Hindus in the growth and prosperity of this country."

### AROUND THE WORLD



**THE K FACTOR:** K-Pop band Seventeen performs on the Pyramid Stage on the third day of the Glastonbury festival at Worthy Farm in the village of Pilton in Somerset, southwest England, on Friday

## Russian attacks on Ukraine kill at least 12

**Kyiv:** Russian attacks across eastern Ukraine killed at least 11 people on Saturday, while rescuers in the city of Dnipro dug through rubble after a Russian strike ripped through a nine-story residential building, leaving one dead, officials said.

The attacks came as Russia continues to stretch out Ukrainian forces in several areas along the 1,000-kilometer front. Moscow has stepped up airstrikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure.

TASS news agency reported citing Kursk governor that

### Priests freed in prisoner exchange

**Ukraine and Russia** said Saturday that priests were among the dozens of captured soldiers and civilians they had exchanged earlier this week. Two Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests taken captive in Moscow-held Berdiansk were handed back to Ukraine after the mediation of Vatican. AFP

A Ukrainian drone has killed five people in Russia's border Kursk region. AFP/REUTERS

## Man killed after 'crossbow attack' on Israel embassy

An attacker who fired a crossbow at a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade was shot dead on Saturday in what President Aleksandar Vucic called a terrorist attack against Serbia. No embassy staff were wounded in the attack, the Israeli foreign ministry said, and the policeman was in a stable condition in hospital following surgery to remove an arrow from his neck, Vucic said. Vucic named the attacker as Saledin Zujovic, a man from central Serbia who had converted to Islam from Serbian Orthodox Christianity, and said he had worked with an accomplice who is at large.

**China tightens management of rare earths:** China tightened the management of its rare earths industry with the approval of the first comprehensive regulation governing the mining, metal smelting and circulation of the mineral. Rare earths

belong to the country and no organization or individual are allowed to claim them, the State Council said in a statement on its website. The state will take charge of protective mining of the resource, it said. The new rules take effect on Oct 1.

**Aus says arrogant Meta should pay for news:** Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called social media companies arrogant and irresponsible, as the government's battle to have Meta Platforms continue to pay local media organizations for content escalated. Meta's regional policy director Mia Garlick told a parliamentary committee Friday that "all options were on the table," when asked whether the company would ban news on its platforms.

**5 missiles land near ship in the Red Sea:** A ship sailing through the Red Sea came under repeated missile fire Friday in an attack launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, authorities said, the latest targeting the maritime route.

## Iran to hold runoff election

**Dubai:** Iran will hold a runoff presidential election on July 5 pitting little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian against hard-line former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, after results Saturday showed the lowest-ever poll turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. More than 60% of voters cast no ballot in the race. Of the 24.5 million voters cast in Friday's election, Pezeshkian got 10.4 million while Jalili received 9.4 million.

Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If not, the race's top two candidates advance to a runoff a week later. Jalili, once described by CIA director Bill Burns as "stupefying opaque" in negotiations, would have won outright had the three hard-liners not split vote. AP